

WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 16, 2012

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Family at bedside of seriously hurt boy

A BOY who suffered serious head injuries after being knocked down by a van in Walsall turned four in hospital on Monday.

The family of Ismail Ashraf have been keeping a bedside vigil following the collision in Mellish Road. On Tuesday his condition was described as stable.

Ismail was on a ventilator at Birmingham Children's Hospital after the crash on Friday evening.

He is due to undergo further brain scans in the coming days.

The Butts nursery school pupil was injured at just before 5.10pm on Friday.

Birthday

It was his fourth birthday on Monday and his devastated family were at his bedside.

It is thought Ismail was trying to cross the road when the accident happened.

His father Kamran, aged 32, said all thoughts were with the "shy" youngster to spur him on for a full recovery.

"We are just hoping for the best. We are all worried about him, it has been a big shock," he said.

A sign has been put up in Mellish Road, close to its junction with Rushall Manor Road, encouraging anyone with information to call 0845 113 5000.

Hunt for suspect



Suspect - Robert Knight

AN INTERNATIONAL manhunt has been launched for a suspected drugs smuggler from Brownhills after £300,000 of cocaine was brought into the country.

Detectives want to quiz Robert Knight over six kilograms of Venezuelan drugs seized at Heathrow Airport.

An arrest warrant has now been issued for the 51-year-old whose last known address was in the Brownhills area.

Report by Craig Hughes

there have been some accidents, and the crash barriers have come down quite a few times.

"There have been accidents just before the island at Sutton Road because of visibility problems. This is something I have been highlighting and road safety is imperative."

The plan is still in the early stages and comes after £422,065 of the £630,989 red route budget was spent. The remaining £208,924 has been forwarded to 2012/13.

Initial plans for the busy junction last year were to create two lanes on the Broadway after the roundabout with Sutton Road.

Clears

It currently feeds into one lane before becoming a dual carriageway.

The latest red route carried out last autumn was on Broadway West to Junction 9 of the M6, and back to Rollingmill Street.

The red route clears a way for traffic by only allowing stopping and waiting at certain locations.

Bosses are hopeful a red route proposed along the A461 Lichfield Road between Brownhills and Walsall could also be revived. It was axed this year due to funding cuts.

There have also been discussions over the possibility of creating a red route within Walsall town centre.

SCHEME TO EASE BUSY BOTTLENECK

MOVES to improve a busy junction used by thousands of motorists a day in Walsall have been backed.

Plans for the Broadway and Sutton Road island are being drawn up by Walsall Council with funding left over from last year's red route budget.

A scheme to widen the bottleneck junction, which received backing from the Department for Transport, was scuppered by an underground gas main.

Paddock councillor Rose Martin has led calls for action to be taken at the junction, which has seen a number of accidents with cars smashing into crash barriers.

She said: "I would welcome any improvements that will make the road safer. I am really pleased they are looking into it as

All the fun of the fair at town show



Up for fun - Suranne Greenwood, aged 9, from Walsall Wood, enjoys one of many action and funfair attractions available at Walsall Town Show at the weekend

FAIRGROUND rides and action-packed displays kept hundreds of people entertained at the fourth Walsall Town Show.

Monster trucks, stunt bike displays and a magician featured in the two-day extravaganza held at the Arboretum Extension. Olympics-inspired themes also took part in sports-themed activities.

Cash was raised for Leukaemia and Melanoma Research, a charity supported by Walsall Mayor Councillor Dennis Anson, who visited the event on Saturday. It will also help Henry's Heroes, supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The Stig character from TV show Top Gear also put in an appearance and was spotted on the dodgems.

The show ran courtesy of Pat Collins Events, with Councillor Anthony Harris involved in organising the fundraising aspect.

Cllr Harris said: "We've had a fantastic couple of days with people of all ages enjoying the show. The weather was glorious on Saturday and, other than a shower on Sunday we had another good day. The beach that was specially created for the weekend was certainly put to good use."

The show was resuscitated by Cllr Harris to celebrate the 150th birthday of 'King of Showmen' Pat Collins.

Amanda Challenor, 26, of Wednesbury, took her three-year-old daughter, Lily Tudor. She said: "There was a scarecrow garden where the children got the chance to find hidden scarecrows and plant things. It was the highlight of the day."

Olympic boost for borough economy

THE Olympics has boosted Walsall's economy to the tune of almost £5 million, it has been claimed, with some businesses reporting a 500 per cent boom in trade.

Thirteen borough businesses won contracts worth £4.3 million to supply the London 2012 Games, supplying locks, stamps and cleaning services.

The full effects of the torch relay, which passed through the borough on June 30, can also be revealed following council surveys.

Around 50,000 people are said to have flooded onto the streets of Walsall, Willenhall and Bloxwich to witness the historic moment as the Torch passed by. Fruit and veg traders, pubs and cafés all reported increased takings.

Regeneration chief Adrian Andrew said: "We should not underestimate the social impact the torch relay has brought to the borough."

Around 78 per cent of businesses in Bloxwich said sales were higher than on an average Saturday, with a 300 per cent boost in trade at pubs and 60 per cent at food outlets. Even hair salons are said to have seen a 10 per cent rise in trade.

In Willenhall, cafés are said to have enjoyed a 70 per cent increase in trade, while pubs saw the biggest boom of up to 500 per cent.

Child injured in bus collision

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy suffered a fractured leg after being hit by a bus on a busy road in Darlaston.

The youngster was injured at Walsall Road on Monday afternoon. The injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Suzie Fothergill said: "The boy was given pain relief and fully immobilised before being conveyed, via land ambulance, to Birmingham Children's Hospital for further assessment and treatment."

The air ambulance was sent but not needed.

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Catherine Dalton 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk
Richard Woodall 01543 465301
richard.woodall@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

If you have a story/event that requires a photographer (Thursdays/Fridays) call Tim Spiers on 01902 319363 or 01902 319466 (Wednesdays only).

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: **John Sambrooks**
Tel: 01902 319431
Email: j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: **Samantha Broad**
Tel: 01543 465331
Email: s.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: **Marguerita Finnegan**
Tel: 01543 465337
Email: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: **Jayne La'Hiffe**
Tel: 01543 465334
Email: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: **Paul Jones**
Tel: 01902 319990
Email: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Primark's new store is delayed until 2013

WORK on a multi-million pound Primark in Walsall town centre has hit delays and will not begin until the new year.

The new store, which will create around 100 jobs, is due to be built as part of the £13m redevelopment of the Old Square Shopping Centre.

Demolition work had been due to start in spring this year but is now five months behind schedule.

John Percy, from DTZ, the project development advisor said: "We are working towards starting the new Primark development in the new year and are liaising with partners."

Committed

It is not yet clear what has caused the delay, although it is believed an objection from a third party organisation has forced the scheme to be pushed back.

A Facebook campaign calling for a Primark store to open in Walsall town centre gained almost 3,500 followers before the budget fashion chain confirmed it would arrive.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said everyone involved remained committed to the scheme.

Steel firm to create jobs

A STEEL pipe fittings firm in Walsall will double the size of its premises and create new jobs under expansion plans.

Promat BD has enjoyed success in the oil and gas industry during the last few years, prompting moves to extend its base at Walsall Enterprise Park.

The warehouse capacity will be increased and a new office block created at Regal Drive, Pleck, under plans submitted to Walsall Council. Promat BD designs, manufactures and supplies precision forged steel products.

Starlight stroll

WOMEN are urged to sign up for the Starlight Walk in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice. Participants take on one 3.75-mile lap or two laps of Aldridge for the 7.5-mile course. The female-only fundraiser takes place on September 22, from Aldridge Community Centre at 8pm. Entry is £15. Call (01922) 602528 for details.



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Unofficial school led to £2,500 court bill

A COUPLE have been hit with a court bill totalling more than £2,500 after continuing to operate a mini-school without permission at their home in Walsall.

Ajay Kapur and his wife Savita were brought back before Walsall Magistrates Court for a second time for failing to comply with an enforcement notice.

They were prosecuted in April after ignoring enforcement action to remove desks, chairs and whiteboards from his home, which included transforming the garage in Broadway North into a classroom.

Pupils

But when visited again by Walsall Council officers in May, pupils and tuition equipment were still found at the address.

Last week the Kapurs, aged 48 and 47, admitted the second failure to comply with an enforcement notice when based at Broadway North.

Ajay Kapur, who was left with mobility problems after a road accident in 1991, has said he spent £30,000 to £35,000 converting his garage into a school room.

He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £292 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Savita Kapur, given a conditional discharge last time, was ordered to pay the same.

The school has since legitimately moved to Hatherton House in the town centre.

Views sought over crossing

RESIDENTS and businesses have until the start of next month to comment on plans to close Bloxwich level crossing.

A consultation event will be held today (Thursday) at Bookmark Bloxwich from 4 to 8pm.

Walsall Council and Network Rail's consultation period on the proposals will run until September 7.

The move follows the Government's green light for plans for the multi-million pound electrification of the Walsall to Cannock rail line.

The crossing at Reeves Street will be permanently blocked.

A review of junctions will be carried out and a bridge nearby could be strengthened for the diverted traffic. A bridge for pedestrians and cyclists would also be built.

More Bloxwich news
on page 12

'I had to save lives' says motorway barricade trucker



Quick-thinking lorry drivers can be seen blockading Korbely, who had been driving the wrong way on the M6

A LORRY driver has told how he helped stop a HGV hurtling at 55mph the wrong way down the M6 near Walsall.

Pal Korbely, who had been drinking plum brandy in his cab, narrowly missed dozens of cars as he drove south on the northbound carriageway.

Motorists swerved to get out of his way and he was only stopped when lorry driver Krystian Wilenski and two other truckers used their HGVs to form a barricade.

Hungarian Korbely was jailed for

eight months (see below) and disqualified from driving for three years.

Father-of-one Mr Wilenski recalled how he was on his way to collect car parts when he saw the lorry coming towards him without its lights on.

Protect

He drove into the outside lane, following two other lorry drivers in front of him who had already pulled into the inside and middle lane to block the carriageway near Junction 10, for Walsall.

"I knew something had happened in

front of me because the speed limits had dropped right down," said Mr Wilenski, from Swindon. "Then I saw something coming straight towards us. I thought I had to do something to secure the people behind me."

"I am not a hero. I just thought I had to protect everything else. If we had not done something there would have been a big crash."

"It's my belief that if you see something like that you have to do something. I was not scared for my own safety. I had to save lives."

M6 lorry driver jailed for drunken wrong way trip



Jailed – Pal Korbely, 50

A LORRY driver has been jailed for eight months after driving the wrong way along the M6 at up to 55mph whilst more than twice the drink-drive limit.

Vehicles had to swerve to miss Hungarian trucker Pal Korbely who was behind the wheel despite having spent an afternoon drinking homemade plum brandy.

Other truckers formed a blockade near Junction 9 to prevent a potential disaster during the terrifying incident on July 7.

The 50-year-old got onto the M6 at Hilton Park Services near Cannock at around 10.25pm and drove his HGV into oncoming traffic without headlights.

In scenes to send a shiver down the spine of any driver, the HGV narrowly avoids cars and other lorries on its terrifying 10-mile journey as it sped along at up to 55mph. Some, including a tanker driver, were forced to swerve onto the hard shoulder.

The lorry only came to a stop when HGV drivers formed a blockade on the southbound carriageway between Walsall and Wednesbury, just before junction 9.

Mr Philip Bradley, prosecuting at Birmingham Crown Court, said Korbely had been drinking 51 per cent proof homemade plum brandy in his cab at the service station whilst watching grand prix racing. "He told police he had no recollection of leaving the services or of driving his vehicle at all," said Mr Bradley.

Ban

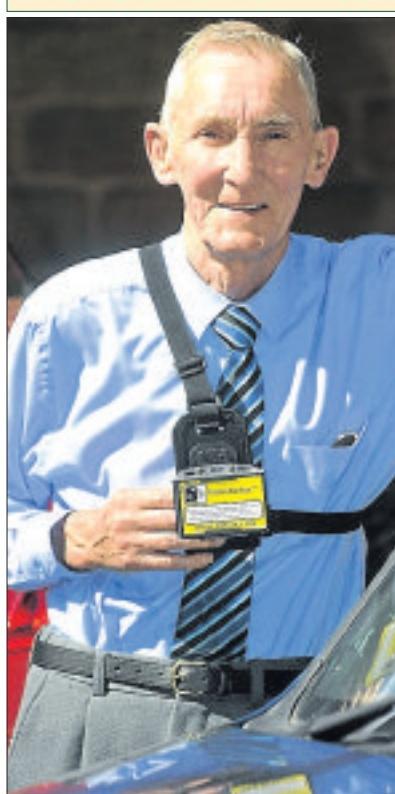
Korbely pleaded guilty to drink-driving and dangerous driving and had been remanded in custody until Friday's sentencing hearing.

Judge Paul Farrer QC sentenced him to a total of eight months in jail. He was also given a three year driving ban and was ordered to take an extended driving test before being able to get back behind the wheel.

Police were alerted to Korbely's dangerous driving by panicked motorists who took refuge on the hard shoulder and called 999.

The judge told him: "It's little more than good fortune nobody was killed or seriously injured."

Wardens to wear cameras



Walsall transport boss Councillor Tom Ansell with one of the cameras that parking wardens will be wearing

PARKING wardens in Walsall are being given body-mounted CCTV cameras in a bid to stop attacks by angry motorists.

Staff will use the equipment to gather evidence against drivers who physically or verbally assault them while on duty.

It comes after 40 incidents of abusive behaviour towards traffic wardens in the last 12 months.

Walsall Council says the footage will be passed to the police to assist prosecutions. Private firm Apcoa runs the warden service on behalf of the council, monitoring the streets and car parks.

Transport boss Councillor Tom Ansell backed the use of cameras. He said: "We took on the duties for parking in order to free up police officers to tackle other concerns. We knew that we wouldn't win every popularity contest but, for the most part, drivers know that if they park legally they won't get a shock when they return to their car."

Abusive

"In very isolated incidents people are abusive and the body mounted CCTV camera sends out a clear warning that this kind of behaviour won't be tolerated."

Apcoa was brought in to manage a team of more than 20 wardens on behalf of the council in spring 2009.

The CCTV is being brought in after the introduction of on-street parking charges last year which brought in around £180,000 in fines within the first 12 months.

NEWS

in brief

Walk on the wild side at Arboretum

WILDLIFE lovers will be looking out for the creatures of the night during a BioBlitz event at Walsall Arboretum next Saturday, August 25.

Residents can join scientists and experts to record the wildlife they encounter at the park, in Broadway North, from 5pm to 10pm.

Charity auction in aid of church

A CHARITY auction is being held as part of the 175 years celebrations for a church in Walsall Wood.

People are being asked to donate items old or new for the event at St John's in High Street on September 7.

To donate goods for the church telephone organisers on 01543 372284.

Sewer work is to shut Rushall route

MOTORISTS are being warned to prepare for a road closure in Rushall during sewer connection works taking place later this month.

The work is being carried out along Linley Road, between the junctions of Barns Lane and Queens Road, beginning on Monday and lasting until August 31.

A sweet topic for the history club

SWEET treats will be the subject of a talk at Streetly Local History Club's next meeting, on Wednesday, August 22.

Emma Scott, manager of Mr Chil's Traditional Sweet Emporium, Birmingham, will give a talk at All Saints Church, Foley Road East, from 7pm. Entry costs £2.

Keep fit for £1 at church session

RESIDENTS who want to keep fit are invited to an exercise class in Pleck. An easy keep fit class is held on Tuesdays at St John's Church at 11am for an hour and costs £1. Call (01902) 605500.

Brewery expands

A £200,000 expansion of a Brownhills brewery is forging ahead with equipment which is increasing production at Backyard Brewhouse from 20 to 50 barrels of beer a week.

Village patrols

OFFICERS have stepped up patrols in Pelsall after reports of people drinking and being noisy.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ALMOST hidden by coverage of the Olympic Games, is the news that researchers in Seattle claim that chemotherapy can actually make some cancers worse. If they are right, the implications for millions of patients, the bereaved and, of course, lawyers, are absolutely enormous.

□□□□□□□

IS ANYONE else perturbed at the large number of press photographs from the Olympics focusing on the nether regions of young female competitors? If anyone was caught taking those sort of photographs in any setting other than a sports meeting, he'd have his collar felt pretty damn quick.

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THERE is a growing, and frankly terrifying, tide of opinion that Boris Johnson should be the next Tory leader and Prime Minister. It seems to be largely based on the triumph of the London Olympics, his defeat of Labour's Ken Livingstone in the capital's mayoral elections and the popular assumption that Boris is a bit of a laugh.

Some of those who know him better take a different view. They see a ruthlessly ambitious politician who exudes charm in carefully-measured doses to win people over. At various stages in his life and career, Boris Johnson has shown himself to have feet of clay. And while it may be possible to be the buffoonish Mayor of London with so many own-goals and skeletons in the cupboard, do we really want Boris Johnson in charge of our armed forces with his finger on Britain's nuclear button?

If that's a bit of a laugh, I'm Dr Strangelove.

□□□□□□□

A COLLEGE at Cambridge has urged its students not to wear academic gowns in town for fear of "incidents" with the locals. Wise advice. In slobby, ill-educated Britain, possessing anything resembling an intellect is now a punching offence. If you want to stay safe, wear an England football shirt, acquire a beer belly and an armful of tattoos, avoid any conversation involving Nietzsche, Darwin or Coleridge and keep very quiet indeed about your master's degree in divinity.

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THE riots which erupted a year ago were co-ordinated by thugs using social networks. Two can play at that game. If it happens again, be prepared for a fascinating combination of 18th century law and 21st century technology as police tweet the Riot Act.

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AS I waited at the kerb at a zebra crossing, a big silver 4x4 appeared about 100 yards away. I assumed he would stop. He did not. He sailed merrily across the crossing, head down. Texting.

□□□□□□□

ALF Thompson, a 60-year-old "Cavalier" with the Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment society, has received the Police Public Bravery Award for disarming and overpowering a knife-wielding robber who was trying to slash a shop assistant's throat.

The robber is now in prison. Mr Thompson says: "Something snapped and I thought I was 20 again. If it wasn't for the re-enactment group, I never could have done it."

A tale to restore our faith in human nature, Cavaliers and Roundheads alike.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

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Council get tough over growing fly-tip menace

MORE than 50,000 cases of fly-tipping have blighted the West Midlands in the last year, new figures have revealed. Walsall was ranked ninth in the list of local authorities for cases of fly-tipping during the period from 2010 to 2011.

There were 1,567 incidents of rubbish being dumped in Walsall in 2010 compared to 1,940 last year, equating to an increase of 37%.

Council chiefs said they treat fly-tipping as a "very serious offence" and cameras have been put in place

in order to try and catch the offenders.

Birmingham topped the grot-spot list after the city council reported 15,690 fly tipping cases between 2010 and 2011. In Wolverhampton there were 3,669 incidents, Sandwell had 2,820 and Walsall 1,940. Cannock Chase District Council reported 583 incidents, South Staffordshire Council 439 and Lichfield District Council 278.

Councillor Tom Ansell, cabinet member for environment, said

cleaning up after fly-tippers had cost Walsall Council £250,000 a year. As a council we are working hard in our efforts to ensure fly-tippers do not ruin our borough with their thoughtless actions," he said.

Catch

"Make no mistake, this is a very serious offence. A total of six cameras have been installed at locations across Walsall to catch perpetrators. People who dump their rubbish in this unlawful way are selfish, pure and simple.

"Their actions deprive our hard-working communities of money which could be invested to benefit people in their daily lives."

The figures have come from the GMB union. Joe Morgan, GMB regional secretary, said "Two thirds of fly-tipping involves household rubbish and GMB believes it would make good economic sense to invest in more municipal waste and recycling centres to make it easier and cheaper for the public to dispose of waste properly."

Concern for jobless youngsters

A TOTAL of 1,355 young people are unemployed in Walsall North, and the constituency's MP declares it a "condemnation" of Government economic policy.

David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, was commenting on unemployment being above the national average in Walsall borough.

Mr Winnick said: "The latest figures show a substantial number - 1,344 - 18 to 24-year-olds not in employment in my constituency.

Urged

"The Commons debate I had on youth unemployment in my constituency highlighted what was happening. In my speech, I had urged the works and pensions minister to recognise that the situation is simply unacceptable."

"Pointing out that the present Government policies were leading to a situation where many of the 18 to 24-year-olds have not been in employment at all, or for that matter have not received training, I said it was time for the Government to act."

"I will be raising this subject again, and asking what action, if any, is being taken by ministers."

Gallery to host family events

FREE family events are being planned following the reopening of the Walsall New Art Gallery on Sundays from this autumn.

Bosses are looking to put together a programme of activities to attract families and encourage more visitors to the town.

The building in Gallery Square is to increase hours in time for the launch of a blockbuster exhibition by Turner Prize winning multi-millionaire artist Damien Hirst.

A provisional date of September 30 has been backed by members of the council's cabinet for the return of Sunday opening at the town's landmark gallery.

Hospice cinema

A HOME cinema has been installed in the dining room of a Walsall children's hospice.

The equipment has been donated to Acorns Children's Hospice, in Delves, and was installed for free. It has been put up at the Walstead Road hospice as part of the Together for Short Lives campaign, organised by the audio visual industry.

Get set for jubilee fun run

Runners Laura Gough, back left, Leighann Richards and Julie Matthews with Sarah Sharpe, front left, Barry Guest and Anita Patel, all from Enoch Evans

A TEAM from a Walsall law firm are to take part in an annual fun run.

Walsall Rotary Club is holding the 30th fun run on September 23 at the town's Arboretum.

The event, which features a 10k and 5k run as well as a 3k walk, will have a Diamond Jubilee theme, and among the hundreds who have entered is a team of nine workers from Enoch Evans LLP.

Staff at the Hatherton Road firm are training hard in the hope of raising thousands of pounds for Breast Cancer Care and Brynslie's Outdoor Education Centre, in North Wales.

Five solicitors, one trainee solicitor, a secretary and an office administrator are taking part. Partner Barry Guest, aged 59, of Lichfield, said: "It is all in the name of charity and a good way to get fit."

The run is expected to raise more than £6,000 overall. The event starts at 11am from the Arboretum Extension. For details and to apply, visit www.walsallrun.com.

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Cabbies are warned to brush up on equality law

CABBIES in Walsall have been warned to brush up on equality laws after a driver was fined for refusing a blind lady and her guide dog entry to his cab.

Licensing chiefs in the borough welcomed the prosecution of Matloob Hussain.

The 43-year-old, of Essex Street, in Walsall, did not pick up Kelly Ann Roberts from her home in Walsall Wood after refusing to accept her black labrador cross guide dog Roxy.

Unfairly

He insisted he did not know it was a guide dog but was found guilty after a trial.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for public protection, said: "This lady was treated very unfairly by the taxi driver just because she had a guide dog with her."

"Licensing enforcement officers successfully put together a case against the firm which led to a prosecution."

He added: "We are very pleased that justice has been done and this stands as a warning to other licensed private hire drivers that they should be aware of the laws and ensure that they do not breach the equality act and treat people fairly."

Under regulations, taxi and private hire drivers cannot refuse to carry any assistance dog unless they have an exemption.

Man held two swords in pub

A MAN was found holding two samurai swords when police were called to a disturbance at a pub in Walsall, a court heard.

David Beeson was found with the swords at the Magic Lantern pub in Cavendish Road, Beechdale, on May 19.

The 39-year-old, of Jenner Close, Beechdale, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

Dropped

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, said Beeson dropped the swords at the request of officers who arrived on the scene.

Beeson told police he had been attacked by unknown males who pushed him to the floor.

He admitted two charges of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place.

Beeson will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 4 for sentencing and was given unconditional bail.

Call for urgent safety measures on road after crashes

FRESH calls have been made for safety improvements on Walsall's A34 Birmingham Road following the latest in a long line of crashes.

Fed-up homeowners have seen cars plough into their front gardens. One garden wall has been struck three times in the last two years alone.

The most recent collision at the blackspot involved a car and a turning vehicle on the southbound carriageway. Calls are now

being made for a speed camera to be re-introduced on that stretch of road.

It comes amid claims that the number of crashes has increased since the camera was removed.

Resident Dave Cunningham, who has lived in Birmingham Road for more than 30 years, said: "This road is a particularly badly designed spot on a busy dual carriageway."

Councillor Rose Martin, representative for Paddock ward, said: "This is obviously an

accident blackspot. I think it would be a good idea to put a speed camera back."

Council chiefs have said they are talking to police to see what can be done.

Collision

Councillor Tom Ansell, the borough's transport boss, said: "In view of recent accidents along the northbound carriageway of Birmingham Road, ongoing discussions have been taking place with police to con-

sider safety improvements. As I understand it, this latest incident involved a vehicle travelling on the southbound carriageway in collision with a turning vehicle."

The local authority last month outlined a string of measures to boost safety on Birmingham Road, when Selwyn Holden, aged 84, and his wife were left shaken after the front wall of their garden was destroyed.

Trees will be pruned, a reflective bollard installed and road markings altered.

Care home boss stole from dying pensioner



Tracey Keates stole more than £4,000 from residents

THE former deputy manager of a care home in Walsall plundered more than £4,000 from residents' bank accounts, a court was told.

Debt-ridden Tracey Keates stole bank cards from a 92-year-old resident and his terminally ill wife at Harden Hall care home.

The 36-year-old, of Marbury Drive, Bilston, made numerous withdrawals at cash machines.

The money was taken over a five-week period in April and May and was used for loan repayments and a house deposit, Walsall Magistrates heard last week.

The court heard that a Lloyds TSB bank card and MasterCard were stolen from the man and his wife, aged in her 80s.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, said the cards were taken from a bedroom at the care home in Coalpool Lane and the thefts were discovered after the husband noticed his wife's purse missing.

Account

Shortly afterwards, he noticed cash had disappeared from his account.

A police investigation revealed Keates had been caught on CCTV cameras at cash machines across the Black Country making the fraudulent withdrawals.

Mr Paul added: "At the time the theft was discovered, the wife was terminally ill in Walsall Manor Hospital."

The court heard that Keates took a total of £4,355.40 which she spent on repaying loans, while £950 went towards paying the deposit on a house.

Keates made full admissions to police, telling them she had just come out of a violent relationship and had £4,000 to £5,000 of debts.

She admitted two charges of theft and one of fraud by false representation.

Keates will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 4 and was unconditionally bailed.

Recipe for success at club



Councillor Rose Burley with project manager Sharon Felton in the club's new kitchen

A NEW kitchen has been opened at a volunteer-run community centre in Walsall which is aiming to start a lunch club running until funding was secured with the help of Walsall Council.

Project manager Sharon Felton said: "It was in a terrible state and it meant that we couldn't really get a lunch club off the ground for the older people round here."

"We were over the moon when our local councillor and the council helped us out and we now have a show kitchen that would make Gordon Ramsay jealous."

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NEWS in brief

Skateboard ramp to replace annexe

A FORMER council office building next to a listed manor house in Walsall will be demolished.

The 1970s annexe is being replaced by a skateboard ramp at Aldridge Manor House, in Little Aston Road.

The Manor House is used for youth services offered by Walsall Council. But the adjoining building is no longer required and is poised to be demolished and replaced with a skateboard ramp.

Crews vying for fire station title

FIREFIGHTERS from Aldridge have been shortlisted for the accolade of 'station of the year' in a West Midlands awards scheme.

Fire crews from Aldridge will be going head to head with Bilston, Stourbridge, Sheldon and Binely stations in the West Midlands Fire Service contest.

Amateurs battle at dinner show

YOUNG boxers will be taking to the ring at the Banks' Stadium in Walsall for the Pleck Amateur Boxing Club dinner show on October 11. Comedian Ollie Spencer is also appearing. Tickets are £30 including a four course meal or £5 for the boxing only. Call (01922) 651414.

Faster broadband on way for village

HOMES and businesses in Pelsall will be the latest to benefit from superfast broadband, BT have announced.

People served by Beacon telephone exchange will benefit from upgrades as part of the roll-out of BT's upgraded service.

Thousands flock to quilts festival

MORE than 30,000 people are anticipated at the popular Festival of Quilts event at the NEC in Birmingham this week. More than 1,000 quilts will be on display at the event from today (Thursday) to Sunday.

Free lessons on offer at college

LEARNERS can study mathematics and English for free at Walsall Adult Community College from September 2012.

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TOWEL RAILSGood selection on show,
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from £65**NEWS****Bokwa ready to be a hit with fitness fans**

TO SEE Jackie Bailey energetically dancing, leaping and punching the air it is hard to believe she recently celebrated her 50th birthday.

However, age isn't a problem for the fitness instructor who became one of the first people to learn the latest craze, Bokwa, which she teaches at the Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Centre in Cannock.

Bokwa is derived from a combination of two words - 'Bo' which represents the light boxing and 'kwa' represents the South African war dance Kwaito.

Jackie says it is an intense workout based around the alphabet - so a lot of the moves are represented by a letter.

"Earlier this year I went down to the Nuffield City gym in London, which I believe is where Robbie Williams trains, and learned all about Bokwa," says Jackie, who lives in Cheshire Hay.

Strenuous

"I have taught dancing and classes like Zumba for 30 years and this is one of the most strenuous workouts I have seen."

"When I take a class I spend a few minutes going through the moves and talking to them about what each letter means. Once they have learned them they can then go to any class, as the moves are the same whether you are in London or in Scotland."

Bokwa is the brainchild of dancer and fitness instructor Paul Mavi who had such a passion for his South African roots that he wanted to introduce it into his routines.

Jackie, who grew up in Willenhall and used to be a pupil at Pool Hayes School, says: "When you first train as an instructor in Bokwa you learn the basic moves and a few of the letters, as you work up the levels you find out



Fitness instructor Jackie Bailey demonstrates Bokwa dance

more and piece together the alphabet."

"Because Bokwa is so new there aren't many instructors that have worked higher than level two."

Jackie also takes classes at the Bert Williams Leisure Centre in Bilston, Cheshire Hay Leisure Centre and Pure Gym in Wolverhampton.

However it was her studio manager in Cannock who first asked her if she could learn to teach Bokwa.

"When I first looked at Bokwa on YouTube I couldn't believe how tough it looked and I said to the studio manager 'you can't be serious - you want me to

learn that,'" says Jackie. "But I keep up with the 20-year-olds no problem and enjoy the fact that it is so up-tempo."

"I've had people say I have so much energy they can't believe I'm 50 but in my mind I stopped at around 29, so I wasn't too happy when I hit the big 5-0."

Jackie, who has two sons Ellis, 20, and Jay, 18, has her own dance academy - Dance 2gether and used to supply dancers to the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

"I have no plans to retire soon - I will carry on as long as my body allows me to and Bokwa is so addictive I don't want to give it up," she says.

Another Bokwa instructor is Mel Carpenter from Smethwick who says the class is a mixture of her two favourite things - dancing and martial arts.

Mel, who was a pupil at Cardinal Newman School in Oldbury, loves the fact that Bokwa includes dance moves. "I was working as a salsa instructor when a friend mentioned Bokwa to me and I saw a video clip of it and knew it was going to be the next big thing," says Mel, 35, who is engaged to Steve Bridger and has an 18-month-old daughter called Morgan.

"I went up to Leeds and met the founder Paul Mavi and learned the techniques and moves needed to teach Bokwa."

Mel says the classes are proving popular.

"Even though Bokwa isn't seen on mainstream TV in adverts or on computer games, like Zumba, it is starting to filter into gyms around the country."

"I would tell anyone who is thinking of attending a class to have a go, they will have a lot of fun and get fit as well."



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NEWS

Refund pledge by boss of troubled coach firm

Sew it goes at centre



Sewing tutor Frances Osbourn (centre) with Penny Tennant and Shirley Wilkinson at the Stan Ball Community Centre in Bloxwich

NEW recruits can sign up for a sewing group which meets at a community centre for over 50s in Walsall.

The class gathers at Stan Ball Community Centre in Abbotts Street, Bloxwich, on Monday from 1-3pm. Sessions with a tutor are also held on Tuesdays from 10am to 12. It costs £4 to attend and people are encouraged to bring their own materials. Needles are provided.

There is also a Knit and Natter class on Thursdays between 10am and 12pm, which is £2. Call (01922) 403351.

Customers can contact Mr Court by calling 01922 666476.

THE boss of a troubled coach firm has pledged to fulfil customers' holiday breaks, or refund them their money.

Hoveland European Holidays was dissolved last month, sparking panic from some customers who had paid deposits.

But director Andrew Court last week reassured the 100 customers – promising them their holiday or a full refund.

He apologised to customers for a breakdown in communication, blaming it on a restructuring of the company which had seen a third party company brought in.

The firm, formerly based in Willenhall, is currently looking to relocate.

Families called with concerns after the company was dissolved. Those worried include William and Pauline Brookes, a couple from Bewdley who had paid a £400 deposit for a holiday to Italy to mark their 40th wedding anniversary.

But Mr Court insisted the company would honour all customer commitments.

Apologise

He added: "I've let people down, but I'm no thief. I would like to apologise to customers for a lack of communication. We have been carrying out a few changes operationally and we should have kept people in the know. I am going to write a letter to every customer to lay out what we can do for them, be that a full refund or the holiday they asked for. Anyone who wants their money back can have it."

Mr Court said, despite the firm being dissolved, the holiday coach operation was still operating but under a third party company. He said there were four planned trips this year he was confident would go ahead.

He said: "On a personal level, I still want to do my best for all our customers. We have many people who come back to us each year."

Customers can contact Mr Court by calling 01922 666476.

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Hidden gem park is to get a major makeover

Brothers exploring nature



Nature watch – Pelsall brothers Luke and Alex Linton joined a flag hunt YOUNGSTERS have been learning more about nature.

Chasewater Innovation Centre hosted a natural art and craft activity day. Among those taking part were Pelsall brothers Luke and Alex Linton, aged four and two respectively.

The event was part of the summer holiday programme at the centre at Chasewater Country Park, Pool Road, in Brownhills.

THOUSANDS of pounds will be ploughed into improving a country park in Willenhall under new plans.

Rough Wood is earmarked for a £20,000 makeover to improve its appearance and encourage more visitors.

The cash investment will include extra security, better public access and visitor information boards. It is hoped it will get Green Flag status within three years.

Walsall Council is to work alongside the Rough Wood friends group and develop bids for Forestry Commission cash.

Willenhall North ward councillor Ian Shires said: "It is one of those little gems you don't realise you have got. There are lots of them in Walsall and this is certainly one."

Trail

"It ought to be used far more but since the friends group have been working in there they have made a difference."

It comes as the Clay Hill site in Allens Rough is also due to be developed into a nature trail. The authority will work with Walsall Housing Group on the scheme which could also include an outdoor gym. The aim is for it to be in place by next summer.

The Green Flag award is the national standard for parks and green spaces and was developed to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country.

Work finished early

REPAIR work on a water main in Walsall has been completed a week early after workers put in extra hours.

Work began on the 1930s main in Lichfield Street, which had a history of bursts, on July 15. The work meant traffic had to be diverted but, despite being planned for three weeks, South Staffs Water completed the project in two.

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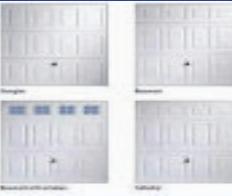
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NEWS

Hall revamp begins



Great Barr Hall - work has begun to save the building. WORK has begun on the revamp of a Grade II listed building. The new owners of Great Barr Hall are now starting to look at possible options for the site.

It is being hailed the biggest restoration project in Walsall in the past five to 10 years.

The building has stood empty since 1978 and is now derelict, having fallen victim to vandals, damp and dry rot.

But earlier this year it was bought by a group of local residents. The purchase followed 30 years of attempts to secure the hall's future.

Now work is forging ahead to renovate the building and bring it into use, although no decisions over its final purpose have yet been made.

Sutton Coldfield-based Lapworth Architects have been appointed to manage the scheme.

Security

New jobs have been created through the introduction of a team of security guards on site and a company brought in to survey the estate. A scaffolding business is also helping to stabilise the building.

The consortium, which owns the building, has already spent £75,000 on preparatory work and is now in talks with Walsall Council, English Heritage, local action groups and workers from the former hospital at the site.

Michael Lapworth, from Lapworth Architects, said the new owners were clear any use must be sustainable and not reliant on the public purse.

He said that the company would help to "end the continued plight of Great Barr Hall" and that the enthusiasm of the building's new owners would also be a significant factor.

Great Barr Hall was once owned by the wealthy Scott family and the whole estate includes 150 acres. The house, gardens and surrounding landscapes have been placed on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk.

Thief left his elderly and ill step-brother near penniless

A THIEF who plundered the Post Office account of his dementia-suffering 71-year-old step-brother, leaving him near penniless, has avoided an immediate jail term.

John Rudd stole more than £12,000 from the account of John Homer, who lives at Lakeview Nursing Home in Great Wyrley.

The 58-year-old withdrew pension credits and disability living allowance which were paid into his step-brother's account.

It left Mr Homer unable to afford the most basic items, including toiletries.

Judge John Warner, sentencing Rudd at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, called his behaviour "thoroughly despicable".

But he made the decision to spare him an immediate prison sentence due to his poor health.

Access

Rudd, of Martley Road, Pelsall, had access to his stepbrother's account card and PIN number.

In total, he made dozens of withdrawals between October 2009 and October 2011.

He took everything from the account each time he withdrew money, between October 2009 and December 2010.

There was an eight-month gap before he started to make withdrawals again.

In total, Rudd, who admitted theft at an earlier hearing, withdrew £12,319.45 from Mr Homer's account.

Staff at the nursing home contacted Rudd over their

concerns about the lack of money being offered to support Mr Homer, and a social worker eventually visited Rudd's address.

Rudd then admitted to the social worker that he had withdrawn the cash because he was facing financial difficulties. The matter was reported to police.

An investigation found Rudd had made cash withdrawals from his step-brother's account on more than 40 separate occasions.

Rudd's sentencing was previously postponed after it came to light he had a heart condition and needed to attend appointments at Walsall Manor Hospital for check-ups.

Sentencing him, Judge Warner said: "You stole money from a vulnerable victim while in a position of authority."

"It was a thoroughly despicable thing to do, and my view was that you should go to prison."

"But a medical report shows that, because of your difficulties, you would not be able to undergo a prison sentence, therefore I do not see to go behind that report."

Rudd was handed an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and a 12-month supervision order.

NEWS

Peaceful garden to honour soldier Jay



Designs for a garden of memories – front, Cpl Horne's daughter Frankie with his mother Jane Whitehouse and stepfather Colin Whitehouse

EARLY designs have been revealed for the planned £20,000 garden of reflection at Walsall Arboretum in honour of a soldier from the town killed in Afghanistan.

The plans, showing a spiral pathway alongside areas for seating and plants, were on display for the first time during a seven-a-side football fundraising tournament at the weekend which raised cash for the project.

More than 1,000 people visited Silvendale FC, in Walstead Road, where dozens of youngsters from local football teams competed to raise funds for the garden in memory of Corporal Jay Horne.

Bomb

The 27-year-old father-of-two from Delves was killed in an explosion in Afghanistan in July 2009. He died while helping fellow soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Rifles who had been injured in a bomb blast.

Cpl Horne's mother Jane Whitehouse, of Duchess Road, said the garden will also be a place to remember other fallen soldiers from the Walsall area.

She said: "I want plaques with the names of the soldiers on the wall or on a massive poppy in the centre of the garden. "We are happy with the plans and I'll be having a meeting with the council in November to discuss it again."

"The event this weekend has been brilliant. I want to thank the organisers and the football club. Jay used to play for Silvendale FC so it was nice to have the event here."

Around £5,500 had been raised to create the garden before the fundraising football day, which organisers are hoping has raised another £2,000.

Cpl Horne was married to Rachel and had two daughters Frankie, 12, and Jessica, three.

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FOCUS ON BLOXWICH**Business partners get funds for town**

A BUSINESS support group set up in Bloxwich has secured more than £16,500 funding in the past five months for schemes to benefit the town.

Managers formed Bloxwich Business Partnership in 2009 with the intention of overseeing large-scale improvements. It now has more than 150 members and, since becoming a community interest company in March, the partnership has secured funding for schemes.

Vision

Regeneration boss Adrian Andrew said: "As a social enterprise the partnership brings members together to share their expertise and vision for improving Bloxwich town centre."

The Partnership is made up of local businesses, landlords, members of the public and the voluntary sector.

Emma Harewood, chair of the Partnership, said: "The group brings together people who have a passion for Bloxwich."

Table top sale
A JUMBLE and table top sale is returning to a venue in Bloxwich by popular demand. The next sale at the Stan Ball Centre, in Abbotts Street, Bloxwich, is on Saturday, from 11am to 2pm.

Fewer burglaries on estate after police dish out advice

SECURITY has been boosted in a Bloxwich neighbourhood, sparking a drop in the number of burglaries, say the town's police.

Officers have been visiting homes across the Turnberry estate over the past two months to dish out security advice and home safety packs.

And police have revealed the move is already paying dividends, with a fall in the number of house break-ins during that time.

More than 50 homes on the estate have been given crime prevention packs, which includes a special liquid to mark valuables so they can be traced if recovered.

Residents from the Woodbridge and Churston neighbourhood watch scheme have been working alongside the police to crack down on crime on the estate..

Members have also been invited to West Midlands Police's community safety house in Brownhills for talks and demonstrations on how home security can be improved.

Sergeant Andy McHugh, for Bloxwich West neighbourhood team, said: "We have worked closely with the neighbourhood watch scheme in providing reassurance and advice to householders."

He added: "We have seen a decrease in the number of burglaries in the Bloxwich West area over the past few months and we look forward to continuing to work with the local community in tackling crime on the estate."

The security crackdown has been welcomed by residents who are working with police.

Neighbourhood

John Teather, neighbourhood watch co-ordinator for the area, explained: "Thanks to the close relationship forged between the police and neighbourhood watch members this area is now a much tougher nut to crack by those looking to commit a criminal act."

"With new knowledge and specialist crime prevention tools, we feel better equipped to tackle criminal activity and help put offenders away."

He added: "Our watch team is always on duty."

To get involved with neighbourhood watch and play a role in fighting crime in your community, visit the www.walsallpolice.org.uk website.



Helen Harris, Charli Parkes, Jenny Ecclestone, Al Barz, Ian Henery, and Jae Alexander Linsey get prepared for the open mic night in Bloxwich

Talented line-up at Bookmark live venue

A SERIES of live music shows and open mic nights for budding singers and musicians promise to raise the roof at a venue in Bloxwich.

Singers, songwriters, musicians and poets can display their talents on stage at an open mic night at Bookmark Bloxwich on Friday, August 24.

The open mic night for youngsters is taking place at the Elmore Room venue at 7.30pm and it is free to enter.

Musical acts are also lined up at the library complex venue. The concerts include 1960s-influenced band DC Fontana on September 8 at 8.30pm. On October 6 Canadian singer and songwriter Chuck Micallef will join forces with Tony Barrett and Enchante at 8pm. Tickets cost £5.

To perform during an open mic night, or who would like to buy tickets, should call (01922) 655900.

Leisure centre's weight loss plan

RESIDENTS are being urged to sign up to a new weight loss programme by Walsall Council.

The programme, called Evolve, will run at Bloxwich Leisure Centre from September. It is aimed at helping people make small changes to lifestyle, such as increasing levels of physical activity and altering diet.

Councillor Anthony Harris, cabinet member for leisure, said: "This is about encouraging people to make very minor alterations to their lifestyle which can have a long lasting impact on their health and fitness. Each weekly session will cover a different area from simple physical activities that include swimming, gym and fitness sessions to lifestyle classes."

The three month programme costs £40, paid in advance, or £3.50 per session. Men with a Body Mass Index over 30 can attend free thanks to funding from NHS Walsall.

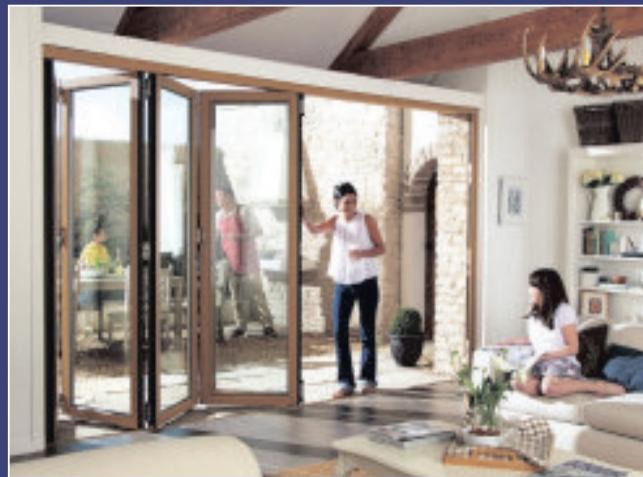
Call (01902) 605500. The course will also be held at Oak Park Leisure Centre in Walsall Wood.

Weekly walking

A WEEKLY walk is being launched from the Stan Ball Centre as part of Walsall Council's Walk On programme. The walk will start on Wednesday, August 29, at 9am. Call (01902) 605500.

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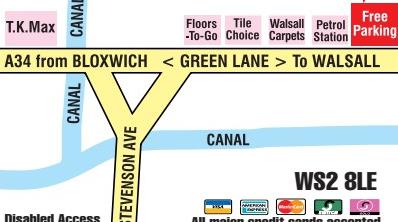
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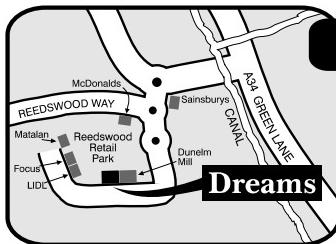


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Trade driven away by 'vendetta' on cars

WALSALL Council is blaming the recession for the slump in parking revenues in the town, as reported in the Walsall Chronicle (August 2). However, it does not take a genius to work out why the car parks in Walsall are car-free deserts with motorists avoiding the town as if it was plague ridden.

If they really wanted to encourage people, with their cars and money to spend in the long-suffering businesses in the town, rather than blame the recession our council should take a look closer to home. It is blatantly obvious, the more you hit the pockets of those who drive, you find the only driving they do is in another direction to where they are welcomed with free parking.

Look at the white elephant known as the M6 Toll. Car and heavy goods drivers who already feel they pay enough in taxes to use their vehicles, have mostly stayed away. As the toll operators suffer the consequences, they put their prices up to compensate, which in turn drives more people onto the now struggling and congested M6. The only way it would be of use to anyone would be to make it toll-free.

Damaging

Walsall Council is going through this same mad ritual, which is not only damaging their once nice little earner but the town's traders too, who are victims of some very bad decision making on the part of the council who they pay their business rates to.

The remedy is to scrap the unpopular roadside parking meters that the council have introduced and return to free time-limited roadside parking. The council also needs to introduce a system of the first hour parking for free in its car parks.

This will show that the council wants people to come to Walsall and spend their money which, in turn, will help our local businesses to thrive thus creating jobs and wealth for the town.

If the council continues with its vendetta against car drivers then we will soon have to add the word 'ghost' in front of the word 'town' when it comes to Walsall.

Derek Bennett, UKIP prospective Parliamentary candidate Walsall South

LETTERS

Don't blame the recession for closures

WHY does Walsall Council not open their eyes and quit blaming the recession.

The fact is that their GREED is causing the closure of many small shops in the town center, not the recession.

My partner and myself do not go to the town center now because they have put these parking machines everywhere and are enforcing it very harshly.

I parked in the town a few weeks ago to visit an elderly relative. I parked where I have parked for years, when I came out I had a ticket for £50.

There was a machine I honestly did not see 30 yards down the street.

I queried this and they gave me a discount of £25 if I paid in seven days. Then they sent me a photo of the machine so that I know where it is!

I dropped my partner to have her hair done in Free Street, as I did a warden was making his way towards me and another was coming from the top of the street.

The writing is on the wall. Walsall Council should be ashamed. THEY are closing the small businesses down, slowly but surely.

They should get rid of these jobsworths who sit in offices looking at ways to raise revenue without looking to the consequences.

I travel all over Europe in my work and Britain is the laughing stock of Europe with some of these crazy things that councils do.

Lets get Walsall thriving again!

**Edward Keatley
Walsall**

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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MEMORY LANE

Kidderminster signal box is a BR(WR) 1953 design



Bloxwich signal box complete with its white-on-maroon enamel sign



Wolverhampton signal box first opened on August 16, 1965

Changes point to end of the ageing signal box

UP TO 38 signal boxes are to close across the Black Country and Staffordshire as part of a six-year programme set to bring the ageing system into the 21st century.

The modernisation plan will cover 415 miles of track and will be launched in October with the Stourbridge to Hartlebury line, resulting in the closure of Blakelaw, Kidderminster, Hartlebury and Stourbridge signal boxes.

Network Rail, which is behind the move, says the scheme will mean shorter delays in the event of breakdowns, saving the taxpayer bil-

lions of pounds each year. No jobs will be cut although around 80 posts locally will be lost through non-replacement and natural wastage. The aim is to centralise all signalling at a base in Saltley, Birmingham, using a visual display based control system.

The Walsall, Bescot and Cannock track will bring into line in August 2013 with the closure of Walsall, Bescot, Bloxwich, Hedgesford and Brereton Sidings signal boxes.

The next year the Wolverhampton signal box will be closed, followed by Lichfield and the two signal boxes at Stafford in 2015.

Work on the cross-city and South Staffor-

shire line will start in 2016, as will the transfer of services at the New Street Station signal box, expected to take up to two years.

The Birmingham Moor Street to London Marylebone line, which is included in the West Midlands area, will be moved over in 2024-25.

Network Rail spokesman Keith Lumley said: "With fewer signal boxes, there will be fewer signallers needed to talk to each other about what is happening. Instead operators will be able to see on a screen where the problem is and where trains can be diverted."

The company said some 19th century signal boxes, with mechanical levers, were listed and would remain. Nationally more than 800 boxes will be replaced by 14 new signalling centres.

The first signal box is believed to have been created in 1842 by the London and Croydon Railway. The ones that are due to close each have their own individual story to tell.

For example, in April last year, Bloxwich signal box in Willenhall Lane retained its British Railways London Midland Region white-on-maroon enamel sign.

Hednesford still reverses some passenger trains. They do not pass the signal box itself –

the driver has to confirm by phone to the signaller that his train is complete, before the return journey to Birmingham can be signalled.

Kidderminster is a BR(WR) 1953 design and had its windows refurbished a few years ago. Kidderminster Junction signal box was replaced by a lever frame in 1937 which then closed in 1973 and was moved to Arley Station.

Walsall had a new signal box in 1966 as part of resignalling work along the line. It controlled signalling over a six-mile stretch, as far as the Crescent signal box in Willenhall, to Great Barr signal box via Bescot.



Hednesford Station still reverses some passenger trains



The Stourbridge Junction signal box uses Track Circuit Block



Brereton Sidings signal box at the south end of the Rugeley Town station



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01952 288847**CLUB NEWS**Club will
fold after
69 years**SANDWELL
SOROPTIMISTS**

MEMBERS of SI West Bromwich have with great regret decided to close the long-established club due to falling membership.

During their last year the members supported and gave donations to the British Polio Association, an Education Project in Uganda and the Help for Heroes Charity.

Members decided to distribute the remaining club funds to the following six charities: Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland's Diamond Education Grant which helps women and girls to further their careers; SIGBI Benevolent Fund which helps members who have fallen on difficult times; Sandwell Young Carers which supports children aged five-to-18 whose health, education and social lives have been affected as a result of caring for a dependent family member; Girl Guiding West Bromwich; Sandwell Women's Aid which works with victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and Sandwell Chest Care, which works to help patients of Sandwell Hospital with respiratory problems. Each of the charities has been given a cheque for £3,540.

The club was chartered in 1943 and has strived to improve the status of women on a local, national and international level.

An oak tree will be planted in Sandwell Valley later in the year to commemorate the work of the club and its members.

Trevor Fisher.

The season will offer

**Past president hands
out cheque to hospice**

Jerry Hobbs, of Compton Hospice, receives a cheque from Pam Garrington

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

PAST President of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wombourne Mrs Pam Garrington presented a cheque for Compton Hospice to Mr Jerry Hobbs, one of the board of trustees

at the hospice. The money was raised at a Ladies Evening held during her year and has been shared between Compton Hospice and Breast Cancer Care.

New season to start again**WALSALL
WOOD CAMERA
CLUB**

as going out to take pictures. For anyone with a camera, no matter what type, the club offers beginners and the advanced a happy atmosphere to get more out of the hobby.

For more information, contact Dave Deeming on 01922 496756 or visit the club website at www.walsallwoodcameraclub.org.uk.**BY POPULAR DEMAND
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Crook caught in hot-wired pick-up

A SERIAL criminal from Walsall who was caught in a stolen car has been given a six-month jail term.

Gary Winter took a Toyota pick-up truck which had been hot-wired. He was spotted and stopped by police on the M42.

The 29-year-old of Goscole Place admitted taking the vehicle without consent, driving while disqualified, having no insurance and breaching an anti-social behaviour order.

The vehicle was taken from Atherstone. Winter appeared at Nineent Magistrates Court last week where it emerged he had 40 previous convictions for 112 separate

offences, most relating to driving matters.

Mr David Grice, defending, said Winter did not accept being the original taker of the pick-up.

He added that Winter was now anxious to get away from his previous activities.

Winter, who appeared before court via a video link, was sentenced to 16 weeks in custody for taking the pick-up without consent and six weeks concurrent for breaching the Asbo.

He was also ordered to serve eight weeks consecutively for driving while disqualified and was disqualified from driving for two years.

Curry kitchen dishes out meals for needy



AROUND 100 meals were handed out by volunteers to needy people in Walsall.

Meat and vegetable curry, rice and naan bread were all served up outside St Paul's Church, in the town centre.

Christian and Muslim charities joined forces to help those most in need

Mayor

It marked the fifth successive year that the Christian Oak Tree Trust has teamed up with Muslim charity Midlands International Aid Trust to serve dinners for those less fortunate.

A team of up to 10 volunteers served the meals.

The team included the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Dennis Anson, as volunteers armed themselves with ladles to help dish up the dinners last Wednesday evening.

NEWS

NEWS

in brief

Music and sports planned for park

WALSALL'S premier park will be alive with the sound of music and a hive of sporting activity next month when it plays its part in the national Bandstand Marathon event.

Walsall Arboretum will give visitors plenty of reasons to celebrate during the nationwide event bringing live music to bandstands and other outdoor locations across the UK - all on the same day, Sunday, September 9.

Hitting the heights with walk on Clee

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Titterstone Clee Hill, near Cleobury Mortimer, for a strenuous 10 mile circular walk on Sunday. The walk is on grassy paths, lanes and old railway tracks touching the Shropshire Way and the Jack Mytton Way.

Contact the walk leader for further information on 01543 379374.

Queen's beacon is available online

RESIDENTS can enjoy a Diamond Jubilee highlight by watching a short film that has been produced to mark a celebratory beacon being lit at a Walsall landmark.

Barr Beacon joined thousands of sites to light a beacon on June 4 in a chain to mark the Queen's 60 years on the throne. It can be seen online at www.walsall.gov.uk/barr-beacon-raising-the-barr

Limerick

and the Heritage Towns of Ireland's Shannon Region

5 Day Coach Trip

Limerick is a jewel of a county nestled into Ireland's glorious Shannon region. Around every corner is something different, a charming village, an eccentric castle, an archaeological wonder or an awesome view.

Look what's included...

Day 1: Meet our coach this morning as we head for Holyhead and board the Ferry to Dublin. Its an easy drive on the N7 to Limerick - about 2 hours away.



Days 2 & 3: We visit the charming twin towns of Ballina and Killaloe - one on each side of the river Shannon and linked by a stone bridge. The beautiful village of Adare. With its many original thatched cottages, Adare is often said to be the prettiest village in Ireland. We pass through the famous town of Tipperary to Cashel. One of the regions most important heritage towns and home to one of Ireland's most-visited attractions - The Rock of Cashel. We also stop a while at ancient Holy Cross Abbey - a beautiful, peaceful spot on the river Suir.

Day 4: Is left free to explore Limerick and we travel home next day after a last hearty Irish Breakfast.

We stay for 4 nights at **Perry's Hotel** in Limerick town. An excellent 3 star hotel - our customers love it. The hotel likes to serve a welcome punch on arrival and then dinner is served later.

Price includes: 4 nights D/B/B plus coach & ferry travel. Single Supp £60

Coach departs: Saturday 15th September £239

Christmas Carols by candlelight at the Royal Albert Hall

Usher in Christmas with this joyous concert of carols and seasonal classics performed in full 18th century costume in a candle-lit setting under the magnificent dome of the world-famous Royal Albert Hall.



only
£119

Look what's included...

Day 1: Coach this morning for the journey to London, arrive at your hotel mid-afternoon. There's time to settle-in and then later, the coach will take you to the Royal Albert Hall. (There should be ample free time before the show to have something to eat if you wish). 'Carols by Candlelight' performance begins at 8pm to approximately 10pm. The coach will be waiting to take you back to your hotel, the hotel bar will be open if you fancy a nightcap.

Day 2: Enjoy a hot or cold buffet breakfast before we leave the hotel for Oxford Street and a chance to do some Christmas shopping and enjoy the Christmas lights of Oxford and Regent Street. We leave London later this afternoon for home.

Hotels - We use the following hotels, all within easy reach of central London. Thistle Heathrow, Jury's Inn Heathrow, Holiday Inn Heathrow and several others of similar standard at busy times.

Price includes: coach, hotel, breakfast & reserved seat in the stalls or arena. SS £20

Coach departs: Saturday 22nd December £119

Snowdon Mini Break

Mercure Hotel Chester ★★★

Located just outside the city, this is a fine, modern hotel with indoor pool, spa bath, and sauna. Your stay includes 3 course dinner and full choice breakfast.

Price includes: 1 night D/B/B plus travel & trips out as shown. Single Supp £10

Coach departs: Sunday 23rd September £93

Somerset 5 Day Coach Trip £176

You can now have a fantastic 5-day coach trip to the village of Street in glorious Somerset for a special one-off price. There's no hidden charges, just an unbeatable offer.



Look what's included...

Mon: You'll arrive at the hotel late afternoon. Settle-in and look forward to dinner and a spot of entertainment later.

Tue: A trip to the historic market town of Glastonbury. This afternoon we also visit Wells - England's smallest City with one of the most outstanding Cathedrals

Wed: Full day out to the beautiful city of Bath.

Thu: Today is left free to explore Street.

Fri: One last breakfast, then we travel home.

The Wessex Hotel, Street ★★★

Right in the village centre - at one end of the high street with shops, cosy pubs and tea rooms on your doorstep. All 50 guest rooms have full facilities. Regular evening entertainment. Lift. Patio and Garden.

Price includes: 4 nights D/B/B plus trips out as shown. Single Supp £20

Coach departs: Monday 10th September £176

Paignton Devon 5 Day Coach Trip £166

5-day trip staying in Paignton, Devon and visiting the picture-postcard towns of Teignmouth, Looe and Polperro.



Look what's included...

Day 1: You'll arrive at your hotel late afternoon with time to settle-in before dinner this evening.

Day 2: A full day out today as we head west, cross the River Tamar into Cornwall and visit two beautiful coastal villages.

Polperro and Looe.

Day 3: A trip to Teignmouth and free time in Torquay. Teignmouth is a real hidden gem on the South Devon coast, both an historic port and classic seaside resort.

After a nice morning here, we spend some free time in the major resort of Torquay.

Day 4: Today is left free so you can explore Paignton.

Day 5: After a last breakfast we leave for home.

Torbay Court Hotel, Paignton

56 guest rooms. Lift. Large dance floor/bar. Regular entertainment. 3 minutes walk to seafront and 5 mins level walk to shopping centre & steam railway and within easy reach of Paignton Zoo.

Price includes: 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus coach & trips out. SS £20

Coach departs: Monday 17th September £166



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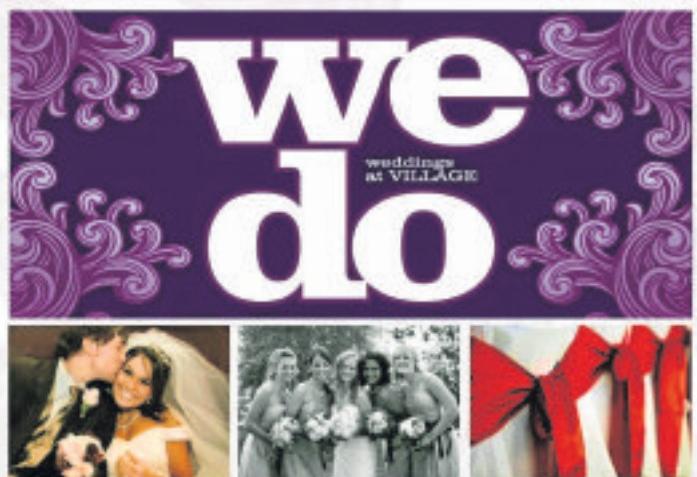
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NEWS

Co-op pledge on town store despite a delay

CO-OP has confirmed its commitment to Walsall after it emerged that work on a new store had been delayed.

Construction on the supermarket - part of a revamp of the Old Square Shopping Centre - will start in the new year.

Primark store has also been delayed, but both shops, poised to create 160 new jobs between them, are said to be committed to opening in the town.

Primark will have a glass front looking out on Digbeth, while the Co-op will be created in the former Tesco on The Bridge.

Excited

A spokesman for The Midcounties Cooperative said the company was excited about becoming a feature of Walsall's high street.

"We remain committed to building the supermarket at the Old Square Shopping Centre and are currently working with the developer," he said.

"We have been trading in the area for more than 140 years and are excited about once again seeing our name proudly displayed in Walsall's high street."

Patient found dead

A PATIENT at a mental health hospital in Walsall who was found dead in a bath had suffered heart problems, an inquest heard.

Carol Ann Silvester, aged 58, of Glamis Road, Willenhall, suffered from anxiety and was admitted to Dorothy Pattison Hospital, where she was discovered in the bath on November 8 last year. Police were called but there were no suspicious circumstances.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain said it was not entirely clear what had happened but was plausible she had leaned forward to turn on water and collapsed due to heart problems. He recorded a verdict of natural causes.

Work on Gigaport site

Work at the junction of Hatherton Street and Littleton Street prepares the way for the new Walsall Gigaport business development

DEMOLITION of a prime site for the multi-million pound Walsall Gigaport project is under way.

Buildings in Hatherton Street, including the former 100-year-old home of engineering firm Noirit and the Fitters Arms pub, are being cleared for the scheme aiming to kickstart regeneration in the town.

The land needs to be remediated before new buildings can go up as part of the £400 million Gigaport project to create a business and office 'corridor'. The land has been earmarked for office development and should create around 200 jobs.

The Gigaport has been in the pipeline for more than five years but stalled due to the economic climate.

But clearing land around Hatherton Street, near to the Littleton Street stretch, will help pave the way forward for the project.

Relocated

Noirit Ltd moved from its home to make way for the Gigaport. They were relocated to a nearby site in Portland Street.

A high-speed fibre optic communications system that businesses will be able to use forms part of the regeneration scheme. The aim is to draw in businesses to fit alongside Walsall College and the Walsall Housing Group office block.

A new leisure and retail complex is being proposed along a 1.3-acre site near Tesco.



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4 Days • 3 Nights: with included
day & night city tour 07 Sept, 12 October from £179.95

4 Days • 3 Nights with included Paradis Latin Cabaret night

07 September, 12 October from £199.95

**Jersey by Sea**

Jersey boasts miles of soft sandy beaches and secluded coves.

5 Days • 4 Nights - Norfolk Lodge Hotel, St Heller

03 September from £359.95, 08 October from £299.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - Ambassadeur Hotel - during the Christmas Festival time - 03 December from £259.95

Easter Special - 29 March 2013

5 Days • 4 Nights - Stafford Hotel from £259.95

Torquay & the Devon Riviera

Escape to the English Riviera and the popular resort of Torquay with its superb coastline, attractive harbour and wide selection of restaurants, cafés and bars.

5 Days • 4 Nights Bancourt Hotel
- features include a bar and heated indoor pool

03 September from £179.95, 15 October from £169.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - Gresham Court Hotel

10 September from £169.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - Seaside Hotel

22 October from £169.95, 12 November & 03 December - Holly & Mistletoe Special - from £189.95

**Eastbourne**

Eastbourne is famous for its flower decked promenade and gardens, beaches and excellent facilities.

5 Days • 4 Nights - Lions Hotel

on the sea front

15 October from £289.95

2 Days • 1 Night - Hilton Royal Parade Hotel:

13 October from £49.95, 22 September from £59.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - Hilton Royal Parade Hotel:

24 September from £179.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - Glastonbury Hotel on the sea front:

10 September from £199.95, 15 October from £159.95

Congress Hotel:

4 Days • 3 Nights - 26 Sept, 19 Oct from £139.95

5 Days • 4 Nights - 15 October from £179.95,

10 December Turkey & Tinsel Special from £179.95

**Loch Lomond & the Trossachs****Rob Roy Hotel**

Enjoy a break amidst the magnificent splendour of Scotland's mountain and loch scenery. The Rob Roy Hotel has a rural setting on the outskirts of town at Aberfoyle. Features include a bar, restaurant and regular evening entertainment.

Included excursions:

- Edinburgh & Loch Lomond
- On 15 October - additional excursion - trip on the Falkirk Wheel. This is the world's only rotating boat lift
- On 17 September - Railway Adventure - with train ride along the West Highland line from Tarbert to Fort William

5 Days • 4 Nights: 17 September from £239.95, 15 October, 26 November from £199.95

**Ghent, Antwerp & Bruges**

Enjoy a break combining these 3 great attractions staying at the Ibis Hotel Sint Niklaas. This is located next to the historical centre of this lovely town and is surrounded by historic streets.

3 Days • 2 Nights:

21 September, 05 & 26 October from £99.95

**Dublin & Wicklow Mountains**

Enjoy a break taking in the thriving capital of Dublin and the surrounding countryside with glorious peaks, lakes of the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

The Hamlet Court Hotel is set in the heart of the Irish countryside.

Included excursions:

- Central Dublin
- Wicklow Mountains and Powerscourt House, (admission extra)

4 Days • 3 Nights: 23 September & 26 October from £169.95

**St Ives**

Enjoy St Ives with its amazing maze of narrow streets and lanes together with picturesque granite buildings. The St Merryn Hotel is set in its own spacious grounds and gardens.

Included excursions:

- Penzance and Lands End • Lizard and Helston

5 Days • 4 Nights:
20 August from £249.95, 24 September from £229.95
15 October from £219.95



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28 October from £269.95

3 Days • 2 Nights with 2 Day Hopper Ticket:
21 October from £199.95

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4 Days • 3 Nights with 2 Day Hopper Ticket
23 November from £199.95

Disney Summer Special
3 Days • 2 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket
Disney's Hotel Santa Fe
21 October from £199.95

Disney October Half Term Special
4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket
Disney's Hotel Santa Fe
28 October from £199.95

School Holiday Specials
with a visit to Disneyland Paris
Staying in Greater Paris/Ile de France Area
4 Days • 3 Nights with 2 Day Hopper Ticket:
28 October - Half Term Special
Adults from £259.95 • Kids from £159.95

3 Days • 2 Nights with 1 Day Hopper Ticket
20 October from £199.95 • Kids from just £99.95

Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire
Disney's Hotel Santa Fe - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket -
3 Days • 2 Nights - 04 November from £149.95
4 Days • 3 Nights - 04 November from £179.95

Disney's Enchanted Christmas Season
4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket -
Disney's Hotel Santa Fe
16, 23, 30 November from £169.95
11, 14, 17 December from £179.95

Disney Hotel upgrades available - please ask for details

Spain by Supercoach

3* Half Board Hotel - 24 August
17 Days • 14 Nights - Adults from £299.95,
Kids from £99.95

SAVE UP TO £200 per adult on brochure price

Fort William & Oban

4 Days • 3 Nights - Croft Anna Hotel - with great views over Loch Linne - 19 October from £99.95

Lake Garda

Beautiful Lake Garda nestles at the foot of the Dolomites with its mild Mediterranean climate and pictureque mountains.

3* Hotel Centrale - beautifully located in the town of Riva by the lakeside -
8 Days • 7 Nights:

08 & 15 September from £399.95, 21 October from £299.95

First Class Special - Hotel Caravel, Torbole

8 Days • 7 Nights - 15 September from £539.95
21 October from £399.95

Italian Dolomites Super Saver

Enjoy the scenic splendour of the Dolomites, contrasting with the landscape of the Alps. We stay at either the Hotel Lady Maria at Fondo or Hotel Panorama at Malosco. Both hotels offer traditional Italian hospitality. Features include a small indoor pool, sauna and Turkish bath.

Included extras:

- Candlelit dinner
 - Welcome drink on arrival
 - Dance evening
- Great value optional excursions:**
- The Dolomites - £22.95 per person
 - Lake Garda - £19.95 per person
 - Italian spa town of Merano with its great shops and remarkable architecture. Included wine tasting in the afternoon - £22.95 per person

Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £59.95 pp

8 Days • 7 Nights: 08 September from £259.95

Rimini

Rimini is the classic Italian seaside resort with miles and miles of soft golden sands and a whole host of bars, cafes, restaurants and shops. We stay for 6 nights at a carefully selected 3* hotel

Included excursions:

- San Marino • Bologna
 - Scenic coastal drive
- Optional excursion: Venice - £49.95 per person
9 Days • 8 Nights: 15 September from £399.95

**Christmas & New Year in Spain****4* Hotel Golden Bahia, Tossa de Mar**

13 Days • 10 Nights from just £699.95
Departs 22 December

Price Includes:

- Return coach travel & channel crossing either by ferry or Eurotunnel
- Excursions to Montserrat, open-air market at Tordera, Gerona, Barcelona and Lloret de Mar
- 10 nights FULL BOARD accommodation as follows:
 - Wine and water with all lunches and dinners
 - Welcome drink
 - 24 December: Buffet Gala Dinner
 - 25 December: Buffet Gala Lunch with turkey, and a glass of Cava
 - 31 December: Gala Dinner served at the table with a glass of Cava, followed by dancing, fireworks and a free bar until approx. 3.30am !

First Class European Tours

- Coaches with extra legroom
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- Portage in all resort hotels

Tuscan Coast & the Isle of Elba

Discover the unspoilt beauty of Tuscan coastline on this special tour based on the pretty town of Marina de Pietrasanta - a delightful beach resort set amidst stunning mountain scenery.

We stay at the 3* Hotel Gemma del Mare. This is located approx. 800 metres from the sea front.

Included excursions:

- **Island of Elba.** Situated off the Tuscan coast this is the largest of Italy's islands. You will find unspoilt, rugged scenery, beautiful beaches and a pleasant Mediterranean climate
- **The Cinque Terre.** This consists of 5 beautiful villages that literally cling to the coastline. The villages remain un-spoilt and provide an insight into how life used to be. A local guide will join us. During the day we take in Manarola and Riomaggiore. From here we take the local train to Monterosso, renowned for its beautiful beaches. We take a train back to La Spezia where our coach will be waiting to take you back to the hotel.
- **Lucca** - one of Tuscany's best kept secrets with its maze of cobbled alleyways and Pisa - home to the iconic 'Leaning Tower'

Inclusive Austria

• 4* Trend Hotel Fontana in the charming village of Fieberbrunn

• Buffet breakfast; luncheon snack and dinner; afternoon coffee and cake; selection of beer, wine, soft drinks and local spirits from approx. 10am until midnight each day

• Included excursions: Kitzbuhel • Salzburg •

St Wolfgang & the Salzkammergut Lakes

12 October - 8 Days • 7 Nights from £499.95

Austrian Adventure

4* Hotel Alpenhof in the heart of the Kitzbuhel Alps at Brixen. There is a restaurant, delightful bar and wellness centre with indoor pool, sauna, steam room and fitness centre. 4 course dinner with choice of menu from the 2nd night onwards.

Included excursions:

- Zell am See & lake cruise
- Grossglockner Glacier
- Berchtesgaden & the Eagle's Nest

19 August - 8 Days • 7 Nights from £489.95

Treasures of Italy

We stay at the charming spa resort of Fiuggi nestled in the hills of Monti Ernici, approximately 40 miles east of Rome.

Included excursions:

- Rome with City Guide • Sorrento

Optional visit to Capri - £59.95 per person

8 Days • 7 Nights: 27 August from £469.95

The South of France

10 Days • 9 Nights: 01 October from £699.95

(024) 76 455 544www.harryshaw.co.uk**Summer Specials**

Bournemouth, Swanage & Lulworth Cove

Durley Dean Hotel, Bournemouth

20 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £259.95

Durham, Beamish & Holy Island

20 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £179.95

Seaside Mystery Tour

20 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £159.95

Pontins Prestatyn Sands - 5 Days • 4 Nights

20 August Adults from £129.95 Kids from £89.95

Pontins Camber Sands - 5 Days • 4 Nights

20 August Adults from £129.95 Kids from £89.95

Southport & the Lake District Super Deal

20 August - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £99.95

St Ives - St Merryn Hotel

20 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £249.95

Floriade - with included Rhine Cruise

4* Park Inn Hotel

23 August - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £199.95

Buckingham Palace & Diamonds

24 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £99.95

Great Yarmouth & Norfolk Broads Cruise

Prince Hotel

24 August - 3 Days • 2 Nights from £99.95

Iffracombe & Exmoor - Osborne Hotel

24 August - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £139.95

North Wales Weekend - Ambassador Hotel

24 August - 3 Days • 2 Nights from £99.95

Anderton Boat Lift, Llangollen & Horse Shoe Pass

25 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £99.95

Bath & Longleat

25 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £99.95

Mystery Tour

25 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £49.95

Sandringham House & Norwich

25 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £99.95

Weymouth - Berkeley Hotel

25 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £69.95

Brighton - Royal Albion Hotel

26 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £189.95

Newquay & St Ives - Edgcumbe Hotel

27 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £189.95

Isle of Wight - Langham Court Hotel

27 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £229.95

Rhine & Cologne - Hotel Weiland

27 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

Bruges - Novotel Centrum

27 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £299.95

Ostend Golden Coast

27 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

Eastbourne Special - Glastonbury Hotel

31 August - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £159.95

Folkestone - Grand Burstin Hotel

03 September - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £159.95

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NEWS

Sun causes blaze



The greenhouse in Howdle's Lane, Brownhills, and behind it the row of conifers destroyed in a fire

A 30-METRE row of conifers and a greenhouse were destroyed by fire in Brownhills after a glass bottle reflected heat from the sun.

Fire crews from Walsall and Aldridge were called to the fire in a garden at in Howdle's Lane at 3pm on Thursday.

Firefighters believed it started from a bottle in the hedge which had reflected the sun's rays.

Homeowner Steve Whittall moved in with his partner Sian, 21, three months ago.

Shocked

Mr Whittall, who works in the construction industry, said: "I just got phoned at work and told about it. One of our neighbours saw them burning and told my partner who told me. I was obviously quite shocked. The bottle was found right in the middle of the hedge."

He said it was lucky crews put out the flames before they reached the property.

MP to keep eye on child services run by council

IMPROVEMENTS made by Walsall Council's children's services department following a damning Ofsted report will be monitored by a veteran borough MP.

David Winnick, Labour member for Walsall North, has called a meeting with council chiefs to discuss last month's Ofsted findings.

The report into the way Walsall Council protects and safeguards vulnerable children found it was inadequate and rated its performance as inadequate too.

Mr Winnick will meet council bosses on September 26.

Mr Winnick said: "My meeting with the council will be an opportunity to see first what improvements have actually occurred since the report was published and what further steps are to be taken."

"The safety and security of children where the local authority has responsibility in law must be paramount."

The search is now on to find her successor.

Pauline Pilkington, boss of children's services, is to step down following the findings of the report.

The report found children's services did not consistently ensure the safety and protection of youngsters.

It will take place at the Banks's Stadium on December 15 when the Saddlers play Yeovil. Last year's drive saw toys given to Walsall Manor Hospital and Acorns.

Much ado about Meera

ACTRESS and comedienne Meera Syal has told of her joy at making her Royal Shakespeare Company debut as the star of a new adaptation of Much Ado About Nothing - set in India.

The former Walsall student is best known for her comedy work on TV, after she co-wrote and starred in Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at Number 42. But the 51-year-old has swapped TV for treading the boards and taken on the lead role of Beatrice in a modern look at Shakespeare's play.

Directed by Iqbal Khan, the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) production of Much Ado About Nothing transports the bard's comedy of love and deceit to an Indian setting.

The production at The Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, runs until September 15.

Casino Royale actor Paul Bhattacharjee plays the male lead Benedict opposite Meera.

Speaking about her new role, Meera, who grew up in Essington and attended Queen Mary's High School for Girls in Walsall, said: "Paul Bhattacharjee is a wonderful actor whom I've known for 20 years. We have only played opposite each other once before in 1992, in a BBC film called My Sister Wife which was also my first screenplay as a writer."

"We played husband and wife then but with a far less happy ending than in Much Ado."



Meera Syal and Paul Bhattacharjee

Derelict shops block cleared for project

A DERELICT block of shops and flats at Portobello, Willenhall, has been demolished.

The buildings had become a magnet for anti-social behaviour. They had been broken into, set on fire and been used for taking drugs since being emptied five years ago.

But a 3-ton hydraulic grabbing machine has made short work of the empty block.

Bilston-based Heantun Housing Association has now struck a deal with Wolverhampton City Council which will see the land transformed.

The new plans include a new nursing care home, affordable housing and a "retail and commercial development".

Nick Crombie, Chief Executive of Heantun Housing, said a planning applica-

tion for the new scheme would now be submitted in October.

He said: "Local residents have been very patient during the disruption of demolition and we tried to keep them up to date with what was happening."

Earthworks

"Whilst the building finally disappeared on July 20 local contractors McCullife have completed the temporary earthworks."

"We are now progressing the necessary survey and site investigation work to inform our planning application for the development of the sites."

A consultation with local residents will take place in September ahead of the formal planning application.

Large earth mounds now surround the site.

NEWS

NEWS in brief

Young jobless on course for skills

YOUNG unemployed people in Walsall have been given the chance to learn skills. Eleven students are taking the 24-week programme at Frank F Harrisons Skills Centre.

The students have enrolled on Walsall Adult and Community College's Construction and Green Skills Academy. The course is aimed at 18 to 24s who are out of work and not in education or training. From September the college is recruiting learners for its construction, sports and health and social care academies.

Time running out to have GP say

RESIDENTS have until August 21 to have their say on plans to merge two GP surgeries in Walsall.

The proposals will affect the Sai Medical Practice in Forrester Street and the Wharf Medical Practice in Pleck Road. A consultation was launched by NHS Walsall. A decision is expected on September 30. Send an email to customer.care@walsall.nhs.uk or call (01922) 618358.

Vandals target pool beauty spot

TREES have been ripped up, signs damaged and litter strewn around in a surge in vandal attacks an Essington beauty spot.

Yobs have targeted the parkland around Brownshore Pools, Essington, numerous times with the number of reports soaring. Police have now pledged to step up patrols around the site.

summersale

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What's On!

Street theatre is celebrating colts

A MEDIEVAL street theatre play will be staged in Walsall on Saturday, August 25, and will involve some of the borough's heritage.

Robin Hood and the Giant is being performed as part of Walsall Civic Society's £50,000 scheme to raise the profile of the Bayard's Colts.

The colts are a collection of 17 colts which were carried in mayoral processions.

There will be three performances outside the Black Country Arms and at Asda in High Street at noon, 2pm and 4pm.

Banks's Stadium hosts darts stars

AN EVENING of darts including Wayne 'Hawaii 501' Mardle and Terry 'The Bull' Jenkins is coming to Walsall.

The professional darts show is being held at the Banks's Stadium.

Peter 'One Dart' Manley and Andy 'The Pieman' Smith also on the bill for September 13. Tickets are £15 or £12. For details call (01922) 651416 or visit the www.saddlers.co.uk website.

Big screen night for football club

MOVIE fans will be whisked Back to the Future at a showing of the movie on a giant inflatable screen to help Walsall Wood Football Club raise £200,000. An outdoor screening of the 1985 classic will be held on August 26 at 8.30pm. Tickets £8 on the night.

Shakespeare gets a Catalan twist in Rep's Forests drama

AN INNOVATIVE programme is planned for Birmingham Rep, as it prepares to move back to its revamped home.

The Rep has been undergoing a transformation as part of a multi-million redevelopment at Centenary Square building an iconic new library for the city.

A new purpose-built 300-seat auditorium will be opened in 2013. There will also be a studio theatre, rehearsal rooms, set-building facilities and dressing rooms.

The Rep has been taking productions to venues in and around the city during the past year.

It's autumn programme will start with Forests, at The Old Rep, Station Street, from August 31 to September 15.

Radical

It is a radical interpretation of Shakespeare bringing together forest scenes from many of his plays. It will feature a UK-Catalan cast and is directed by controversial Barcelona-based director Calixto Bieito.

Our Country's Gold by Timberlake Wertenbaker will be at the same venue from September 25-29 and Alan Sillitoe's The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner from October 2-6. Sean O'Casey's The Plough And The Stars will be staged from October 9 to 31.

For details see the www.birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

Comic triple bill at Glee

COMEDIAN John Fothergill is at Birmingham comedy venue The Glee Club tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and Saturday night, with support from Gary Delaney and Karl Spain.

Fothergill is a lively Geordie. It was while working as a casual scenery mover at a theatre that he found his true calling. Meanwhile, Delaney is a master of razor sharp one-liners while Spain found comedy after failing to become a model.

On August 23 TV comic Zoe Lyons will play a gig at the Hurst Street venue.

See www.glee.co.uk



Carl Hester winning Olympic gold in the dressage with his stallion Utopia

Riding show strikes gold with Olympic win routine

OLYMPIC gold medal winning dressage rider Carl Hester will perform in Birmingham later this year as part of the Spanish Riding School's 2012 UK tour.

The Team GB rider will be opening the show at the NIA, which runs from November 16 to 18, on his black stallion Utopia.

Carl will perform his gold medal winning routine from the Olympics. He will also give a masterclass in dressage moves.

Lipizzaner

He will be telling the audience behind-the-scenes stories from London 2012, where the dressage trio led by Carl won Team GB's first gold in the sport for 60 years at Greenwich Park.

The show hosted by TV presenter Nicki Chapman will feature displays from the famous white Lipizzaner stallions.

Tickets are priced from £25 to £65 (plus fees), from website www.theticketfactory.com or on 0844 338 8000.

Male voice choir seeking recruits

A CANNOCK choir is holding a behind-the-scenes look as it bids to recruit new members.

Cannock Chase Orpheus Male Choir is staging an open evening at the Prince of Wales Centre, in Church Street, Cannock, from 7.30pm on Friday, August 24.

The choir is currently recruiting new singers of all ages, especially baritone and bass.

The choir usually rehearses at the Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church.

For more information call publicity officer Brian Marks on (01922) 410209.

Tribute to Queen at an arts centre

A QUEEN and Freddie Mercury tribute act led by Walsall born and bred Scott Maley will perform at West Bromwich arts centre The Public on Saturday, September 15.

Flash: A Queen Tribute will take to the stage at 8.30pm at the New Street centre. Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Call 0121 533 7161.

The venue will be standing only.

Teddy picnic at botanic gardens

A TEDDY bears' picnic will be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston. The event will include face painting, a bouncy castle and clown at the Westbourne Road venue on Wednesday, August 22, from noon to 3pm. Call 0121 454 1860.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 19.08.12

CHOICE



Rupert Penry-Jones

The Last Weekend

ITV1, 9pm

Shaun Evans and Rupert Penry-Jones have been spending a lot of time together recently, having both cropped up in *Silks* and *Whitechapel* and now in this new drama series, based on the novel by Blake Morrison. However, hopefully that's where the resemblance to their characters ends ... *The Last Weekend* follows Ian Goad (Evans) and Oliver Moreton (Penry-Jones), who, along with their respective wives plan to spend the August bank holiday weekend together in a ramshackle country cottage. But what should be a relaxing few days takes a darker turn.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast: **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.10** Cash in the Attic. (R) **2.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.40** Ocean Giants. (R) **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** The Indian Doctor. (R) **6.00** The One Show: Best of Britain. (R) **6.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.00** Britain's Hidden Heritage. New series. Richard E Grant visits Pinewood Studios and sheds new light on British cinema, while Paul Martin takes in Queen Victoria's home. **8.00** Our Time: The Isle of Wight. **8.00** Countryfile. On a visit to Grizedale Forest in the Lake District, Julia Bradbury discovers why the area is a haven for mountain bikers and John Craven witnesses the end of a red kite project. In the evening: Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.00** Silent Witness. Part one of two. Nikki stumbles upon a sinister world of sex, grooming and teenage prostitution. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Including Manchester City v Southampton. **11.25** In with the Fynns. (R) **11.55** Film: Deceived. (1991) Psychological thriller, starring Greta Garbo. **1.40** Weather. **1.45** Sign Zone: Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony. Highlights of the show produced by Danny Boyle. (R) **4.30** BBC News. **1.10** BBC News. **3.45** Close.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen: Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** Film: Carve Her Name with Pride. (1958) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Virginia McKenna. **2.25** Film: The Way to the Stars. (1945) A naive young pilot is assigned to a British bomber base during the opening skirmishes of the Battle of Britain. Second World War drama, starring John Mills and Michael Redgrave. **4.15** Flit It! **4.45** Antiques Road Trip. (R) **5.30** Oceans. (R) **6.30** MotoGP. The Indianapolis Grand Prix (start-time 7.30pm). Matt Rudden presents live coverage of the 11th round of the season at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. **8.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang explore the country's western frontier, an area that has seen many rare ventures, and learn about the cultures and cuisines of China's ethnic minorities. **9.00** Toughest Place to Be a Miner. New series. Craig Notman, who works in mine rescue in Staffordshire, travels to Mongolia to learn the skills that get miners to take even risks in an attempt to make a living. **10.00** Page Eight. David Hare's spy drama about an MI5 officer's attempts to investigate a threat to the stability of Britain's security services. Starring Bill Nighy, Rachel Weisz and Ralph Fiennes. (R) **11.40** MotoGP. The Indianapolis Grand Prix. Another chance to see the 11th round of the season at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. (R) **1.10** BBC News. **3.45** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gfit. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.45** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.15** The X Factor. (R) **2.30** Film: Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.30** The Talent Show Stargazing. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. New series. Bradley Walsh presents as former MP Edwina Currie. Countdown's Rachel Riley, Boyzone's Keith Duffy and Emmerdale star Mark Charnock pit their wits against the quizmaster. **8.00** Number One. Olympic gold medallists Denise Lewis and Sally Gunnell each compete in up to seven challenges, hoping to win cash for charity. (R) **9.00** The Last Weekend. New series. Two couples take a short holiday together, but the men's competitive streak leads to hilarious consequences. Suspense thriller, with Rupert Penry-Jones and Shaun Evans. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Film: GoldenEye. (1995) James Bond goes in pursuit of a satellite weapon that has fallen into the hands of a mysterious criminal mastermind. Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan. **12.40** Film: Stargate. (1994) Headlines. **1.40** Golden Balls. (R) **3.30** Motorsport UK. **4.20** ITV Nightshift. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Treachery People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** Ironman 2012. **7.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - David Smith Part III. (R) **7.15** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of the wheelchair basketball and rugby events. **7.40** Surfing Special: The English Coast. **8.10** Love & Grace. (R) **8.45** Will & Grace. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.50** Jamie Does the French Pyrenees. **1.50** The Big Band Theory. (R) **2.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** The Simpsons. **3.50** V Festival 2012: Live. **4.50** Deal or No Deal. **5.50** Escape from Ozidor. (R) **7.25** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4o'clock.tv. A priest's views on animals and the afterlife. **8.00** Come Dine with Me. Four dinner-party hosts compete in north Cornwall. **9.00** Lee Evans: Roadrunner. A performance recorded at London's O2 during the madcap comedian's 2011 tour, which saw him play at some of the biggest arenas in the UK and Ireland. **10.10** Film: Spudique. (1995) Disabled performers play pranks on the public. **10.40** The Function Room. Comedy, starring Kevin Eldon. **11.15** Harry Hill. An episode of the oddball sketch show. (R) **11.45** Music on 4: V Festival 2012: Sunday Highlights. Sets by Nicki Minaj, Tinie Tempah, Tom Jones, Snow Patrol and the Killers. **1.15** Film: Law of the Playground. (R) **1.45** The 11 O'Clock Show. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Countdown. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bott Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.06** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **11.10** Worried About Jane Landings. (R) **12.55** Film: The Karate Kid Part III. (1989) **5.15** Film: Robin Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Thomas and Peter Ustinov. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Once Upon a Time. Regina struggles to maintain her influence on Storybrooke. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life. **10.00** Mutt Ugly: World's Ugliest Dog. A competition in California to find the world's most hideous hound. **10.55** Film: Bring It On. (2000) Cheerleading comedy, starring Kirsten Dunst. **12.50** SuperCasino. **3.55** Sons of Anarchy. **4.45** Rough Guide to Short Breaks. **5.00** Guide to Hanas. **5.15** Film: The 100 Mile Rule. (2006) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D. **7.10** Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford. **9.00** The Batman Shootings **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin
8.00 Timewatch: The Last Day of World War One **9.00** Film: Wilde (1996) **10.00** Omnibus: Gore Vidal's Gore Vidal **11.40** Wilderness Explored
ITV
3.00 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **5.00** Film: Garfield (2004) **6.45** The Tale of Two Kitties (2006) **6.45** The X Factor **8.00** The Xtra Factor **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.35** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003)
ITV3
3.55 Film: Forever Young (1992)
6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** The Story of the Cuckoo Drama **9.00** Film: The Portrait of a Lady (1996) **11.55** Cracker
E4
2.05 Film: MacArthur (1977) **4.45** Film: Shalako (1968) **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Minder **9.00** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **10.50** Film: Wild at Heart (1990)
5
3.15 Charlie's Angels **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.05** Revenge **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **10.00** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl **11.45** Sorority Row (2009)
Film4
2.55 Admire Family Values (1993) **4.45** The Thirty-Nine Steps (1978) **6.40** Sahara (2005) **8.00** Along Came a Spider (2001) **11.05** Sorority Row (2009)

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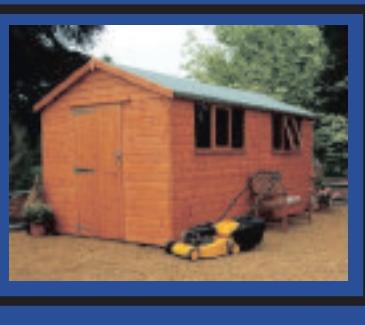
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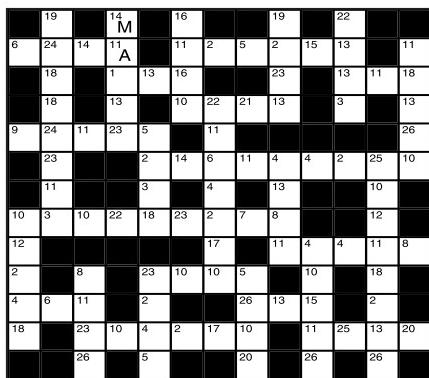
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No.182

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

G	S	X	B	E	Y	L	N	Q	Z	U	K	T
H	J	D	O	V	F	P	A	C	M	R	W	I

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**ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS
IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTION:

The letter
represented by
the question
mark is A.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
 QUICK CROSSWORDS
 CODEWORD SUDOKU
 WORD PUZZLER
 WORD SEARCH
 NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES
On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad**Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

1. A young animal gets a developing insect (4)
3. Striking taste with mixed gin (8)
9. The sort of officer who joins up? (7)
10. A pile's turned over (5)
11. Describing one with the understanding of the Devil? (6-6)
13. Broken tea-set - is that all a man leaves? (6)
15. Assumed by one who wishes to be in good physical shape (6)
17. Not a monk who practises at the bar! (7-2-3)
20. A plot to destroy a famous Greek (5)
21.and ruin the arts (7)
22. Threatening evil on the left (8)
23. The four corners of the earth will provide information (4)

Quick Clues:**Across**

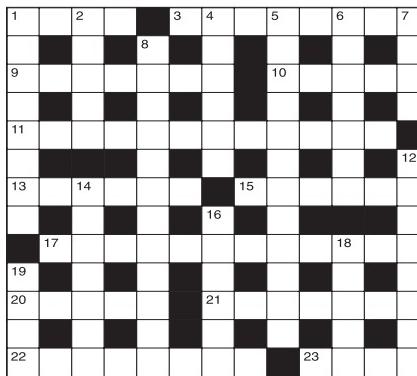
1. Replete (4)
3. Hose (8)
9. Last longer than (7)
10. New and strange (5)
11. Defeat (12)
13. Set as a task (6)
15. Most certain (6)
17. Disgraceful (12)
20. Smallest (5)
21. Fragrant (7)
22. Cajoles (8)
23. Cast off (4)

Down

1. Recommended methods of administration provided by insurance companies (8)
2. In Barcelona I played the instrument backwards! (5)
4. Times when nocturnal insects may be seen round the north (6)
5. The moon's optical illusion is world-wide! (12)
6. I say I am a journalist to create an effect (7)
7. May get engaged in the automobile (4)
8. Descriptive of one who makes a show? (12)
12. They wait at sea (8)
16. Tenant has to look after Leslie (6)
18. The turning-point for many engineering enterprises (5)
19. Not down like a tree (4)

Down

1. Strongly illuminated (8)
2. Type of water-lily (5)
4. Frugality (6)
5. Building (12)
6. Upside down (7)
7. Dupe (4)
8. Shown (12)
12. Bearing accent (8)
14. Confidential (7)
16. Resist (6)
18. Polling-place (5)
19. Knock (4)



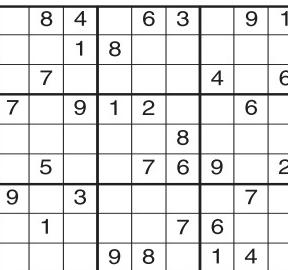
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Puts all; 7 Scrap; 9 Scrip; 10 Calling; 12 In one basket; 14 Submariners; 15 Panache; 19 Acute; 21 Alter; 22 His eggs. Down: 1 Quick; 2 Assign; 3 Old; 4 Scales; 5 Painter; 8 Carbine; 11 Anarchy; 13 Curable; 15 Moaned; 16 Racket; 17 Stage; 20 Hit. QUICK - Across: 6 Stretch; 15 Snack; 9 Utter; 10 Matures; 12 Stockholder; 14 Made to order; 18 Callous; 19 Askew; 21 Joust; 22 Forgive. Down: 1 State; 2 Desert; 3 Icy; 4 Annual; 5 Schemer; 8 Gathers; 11 Octopus; 13 Matador; 15 Enlist; 16 Ensign; 17 Leave; 20 Rod.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	9	8	2	6	4	3	7	5
2	5	3	1	9	7	8	6	4
7	4	6	8	5	3	1	2	9
3	8	1	5	2	9	4	6	7
6	7	3	4	1	9	5	8	2
4	3	2	6	8	5	7	9	1
5	6	9	4	7	1	2	5	8
9	7	1	9	2	8	4	3	6
8	2	4	5	3	6	9	1	7

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 - Kitchen
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● Re-Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
● Utility Room/WC●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop

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● Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
● Two Bathrooms●Off Road Parking
● D.Glazing & G.C.Heating
● Well Presented Rear Garden

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Bloxwich
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● Cloakroom W.C.●En-Suite
● Solid Timber Flooring●Family Bathroom
● Conservatory●Integral Garage

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● Corner Plot Location

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● Conservatory●Garage/Workshop
● Gardens●Off Road Parking

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Willenhall
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● Three Bedroom Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Sitting Room●Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room●Bathroom●Rear Garden
● Integral Garage & Block Paved Driveway

Offers in excess of £149,950



Walsall
Leamore Lane
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Lounge●Diner●One Reception Room
● En-Suite●Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens●Garage
● Off Road Parking to Rear

In the Region of £135,000



Walsall
Little Island Drive
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Diner●One Reception Room
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite
● Family Bathroom●Integral Garage
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

Offers Over £130,000



Willenhall
High Road
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility Room
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking●D.Glazing & Central Heating

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Bloxwich
Newhome Way
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Lounge●Diner●One Reception Room
● Cloakroom W.C.●Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
● Detached Garage & Off Road Parking

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Bloxwich
Raymond Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Diner●One Reception Room
● Shower Room●Separate W.C.
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000



Rushall
King George Crescent
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
● Gardens●Driveaway●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £120,000



Bloxwich
Astbury Close
● Two Bedrooms
● Lounge●Diner●Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom●Front and Rear Gardens
● Cul-de-sac Location●Off Road Parking
● NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers in excess of £120,000



Bloxwich
Grantown Grove
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Kitchen●Lounge●Fitted Bathroom
● Rear Enclosed Garden
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £19,950



Bloxwich
Henley Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Extended Kitchen
● Dining Room●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●Garage & Driveaway
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing

In the Region of £110,000



Bloxwich
Slimmers Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●Garage●Off Road Parking
● In Need of Modernisation●NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £100,000



Walsall
Parsons Way
● Three Bedroom End Terrace
● Lounge●Bespoke Fitted Kitchen
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Gardens●D.Glazing & Central Heating
● Large Storage Unit to Rear

In the Region of £99,950



Rushall
Springfields
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● Entrance Hall●Lounge
● Kitchen●Diner●Bathroom
● Patio Area●Gas Central Heating
● Double Glazing●Front & Rear Gardens

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Willenhall
Manor Farm Drive
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● Lounge●Extended Dining Room
● Breakfast Room●Kitchen
● Utility●Games Room
● Family Bathroom●Off Road Parking

In the Region of £90,000



Bloxwich
Victoria Avenue
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
● Ground Floor Bathroom
● Boarded Loft with Velux Window
● Rear Garden with Side Plot●Parking

In the Region of £89,950



Willenhall
Squires Grove
● Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Double Glazing & Electric Heating
● Allocated Parking●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £88,000



Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Diner●Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Communal Grounds
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £87,500



Bloxwich
Revival Street
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● New Kitchen●Re-Fitted Bathroom
● Large Rear Garden●NO CHAIN
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in excess of £87,000



Bloxwich
Broad Lane
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Extended Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden with Rear Access for Parking
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £85,000



Willenhall
Tennyson Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Diner●Kitchen
● Utility Room●Family Bathroom
● Separate W.C.●Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £85,000



Bloxwich
Glastonbury Crescent
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Rear Lobby with Downstairs W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Separate W.C.
● Gardens●Detached Garage to Rear

Offers in excess of £85,000



Walsall
Jubilee Close
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Bathroom
● Veranda●Front & Rear Gardens
● Part Central Heating & D.Glazing

In the Region of £78,000



Walsall
Fleming Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen●Veranda
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens●NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £75,000



Walsall
Telford Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Entrance Hall●Lounge●Kitchen
● Shower Room●Front & Rear Gardens
● Double Glazing (Where Specified)
● Central Heating

In the Region of £70,000



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A Detached Four Bedroom With
Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen,
Modern Utility Area, Separate WC, Lounge
Fitted Bathroom, UPVC Double
Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Double
Frontage, Rear Garden.

£209,995 ONO



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL
Unique Substantial Detached Property, Two
Large Reception Rooms, Good Sized
Conservatory Leading To Bespoke Fitted
Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC
Double Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway
& App 160ft Private Rear Garden.

£190,000



DINGLE LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Property
Having Porch, Two Reception
Rooms, Galley Style Fitted
Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC
Double Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway
& Carport, Superb Landscaped Rear Garden.

£179,995



COPPIE LANE, SHORT HEATH
Immaculately Presented Deceptively Spacious,
Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Large
Conservatory, Refitted Kitchen, Two Double
Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family
Bathroom, Dr/Glazing, C/Heating, Landscaped
Rear Garden, Large Block Paved Driveway.

£179,995



SANDRINGHAM AVE, WILLENHALL
Detached House Having Entrance Porch,
Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory,
Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Groundfloor W.C.,
Three Generous Bedrooms, Loft Room, Family
Bathroom, Integral Garage, C/Heating,
D/Glazing, Driveway, App 200ft Rear Garden.

£179,995



WESLEY ROAD, SHORT HEATH
Extended Four Bedroomed Detached Property
In The Popular Short Heath Area. The Property
Offers Open Plan Living, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory,
Cocktail Bar Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen,
Downstairs WC, Four Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, Separate WC And Integral Garage.

£169,950



FIVE FIELDS ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi, Fully Re-furnished,
Two Reception Rooms, Modern
Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower
Cubicle, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block
Paved Driveway. Viewing Essential.

£159,950



ADA WRIGHTON CL, NEW INVENTION
Three Bed Link Detached
House, Lounge/Diner,
Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen,
Utility Room, Shower Room,
D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage.

£152,995



HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL
A Modern Three Storey Three Bed Townhouse
Having Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC,
Shower Room To The First Floor, Master
Bedroom And Large Bathrooms On The
Second Floor, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Garage.

£149,995



CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION
Detached Property Having Fitted
Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Three
Bedrooms, Two Double Bedrooms,
Family Bathroom, Garage And Large Gardens.
The Property Also Benefits From
C/Heating And D/Glazing.

£149,950



JOHN RILEY DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Detached Property Having Fitted
Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Three
Bedrooms, Two Double Bedrooms,
Family Bathroom, Garage And Large Gardens.
The Property Also Benefits From
C/Heating And D/Glazing.

£147,500



RADSTOCK ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Semi,
Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted
Bathroom, Two Receptions,
C/Heating, D/Glazing, Crete
Print Driveway, Garage.

£142,000



LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Two/Three Bed Much Improved Semi Detached
Having Lounge, Spacious Modern Breakfast
Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower Room, Double
Bed/Third Study, Two Double Bedrooms
Upstairs & Stylish Refitted Shower Room,
D/Glazing, C/Heating And Creteprint Driveway.

£139,995



WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON
Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted
Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C., Family
Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Gas Central Heating, Block
Paved Driveway, Garage.

£137,995



OAKRIDGE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
An Extended Link Detached Property
Having Fitted Kitchen, Extended
Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Three
Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Integral
Garage, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas
Central Heating & Driveaway.

£134,995



WRIGHTON CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
In Willenhall. The Property Comprises Of
Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen,
Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom And Garage. The Property Also
Benefits From D/Glazing And C/Heating.

£124,995



QUEENS LEA, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Extended
Property Having Spacious Lounge,
Refitted Kitchen Opening Into Large
Utility/Diner, Groundfloor WC, Three
Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Enclosed
Rear Garden And Tarmac/Asphalt Driveway.

£124,995



CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Extended Three
Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge,
Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility,
Groundfloor WC, Three Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed
Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£120,000 OFFERS IN EX



BLOXWICH RD SOUTH, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Three Bedroom Semi Having
Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Feature Conservatory,
Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, Double Glazing, Enclosed
Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£119,995



STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD
Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge,
Kitchen/Diner, Feature Conservatory,
Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, One With En-Suite, Family
Bathroom, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear
Garden, Popular Location.

£117,995



FAWLEY CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Semi, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted
Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden. Large
Plot, Potential To Extend STPP.

£116,500 ONO



DEVON ROAD, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Two Bed
Semi, Spacious Lounge, Modern
Fitted Kitchen, Luxury Fitted
Family Bathroom, D/Glazing,
C/Heating, Off Road Parking,
Great First Time Buy.

£104,995



WESLEY ROAD, WILLENHALL
Mid-Terraced Property Having Two Reception
Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms,
Refitted Victorian Style Bathrooms Suite.
Landscaped Rear Garden With Double Gated
Rear Access Providing Off Road Parking, Gas
C/Heating And Majority D/Glazing

£104,995



BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL
A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
Property In Need Of Some Modernisation.
Comprising Of Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner,
Downstairs WC, Separate Shower Room, Three
Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Majority Double
Glazing, Central Heating And Driveaway.

£99,995



KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON
Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge,
Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Bathroom,
Three Good Sized Bedroom, Upstairs W.C., UPVC D/Glazing,
C/Heating And Off Road Parking.

£99,995 ONO



GLASTONBURY CRESCENT, MOSSLEY
Three Bedroom Semi Having Front Porch,
Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner,
Fitted Bathroom, Separate W.C., D/Glazing,
C/Heating. The Property Also Benefits From
Having A Detached Garage, Brick Outbuilding,
Gardens And Driveaway. Great First Time Buy!!

£95,000



LATIMER STREET, WILLENHALL
Spacious Semi Detached Property Located
Close To Willenhall Town Centre. The Property
Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted
Kitchen, Utility Area, Downstairs WC, Three
Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage
And Generous Garden.

£92,995 ONO



STAFFORD ROAD, DARLASTON
New Build Two Bed Semi, Spacious
Reception Area, Fitted Kitchen,
Ground Floor WC, First Floor
Bedroom, Double Glazing, C/Heating,
Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Ideal First
Time Buy, Two Available

£89,995



SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Modern First Floor
Apartment In A Sought After
Location. Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/
Diner, Utility, En-Suite, Electric Heating,
D/Glazing, Allocated Parking.

£89,995



KING EDWARD STREET, DARLASTON
Well Presented Two Bed Mid
Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Extended
Ground Floor, Gas Central Heating,
Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms,
First Floor W.C., UPVC D/Glazing,
C/Heating, Lift, Private Rear Garden.

£87,995



WESTERN AVENUE, BENTLEY
Three Bedroomed Mid-Terrace Property.
The Property Comprises Of Lounge, Dining,
Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Utility
Area, Downstairs WC, Separate Shower
Room, Three Bedrooms And A Family
Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From
Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating.

£84,995



LOWE AVENUE, DARLASTON
End Terraced Property Having
Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner,
Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom
With Separate Shower, D/Glazing,
C/Heating, Rear Garden & Driveway.

£84,995



REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE
Large Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property
Having Lounge, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted
Kitchen, Bedrooms, Double Glazing, C/Heating,
Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Buy To Let Or
First Time Buy.

£79,950 ONO



WILLIAM BARROWS WAY, DUDLEY
A One Bed First Floor Apartment Comprising
Of Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen,
Bedroom, Shower Cubicle And Double Bed
With Fitted Wardrobes, D/Glazing, Electric
Heating And Two Car Parking Spaces.

£69,995



RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD
Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor
Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance
Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room
And Double Bed. Modern Fitted Kitchen, Bedroom
And Modern Fitted Bathroom. UPVC
D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden.

£69,995



BRERETON RD, NEW INVENTION
A Modern And Spacious Second Floor
Flat Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge,
Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower Room, Two
Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom,
Balcony, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And
Communal Garden. MUST VIEW.

£69,995



PRINCETHORPE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Spacious Three Bedroom Three
Storey Modern Town House Having
Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Three
Generous Bedrooms, Two En-
Suits, Shower Room, C/Heating,
D/Glazing, Garage And Driveway.

£625 PCM



MANOR ROAD, ALUMWELL
Three Bed Mid-Terraced Property Comprising
Of Entrance, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted
Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Corner
Bath And Shower. On The First Floor There Are
Two Double Bedrooms And One Single Room,
D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Rear Garden.

£495 PCM



VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid-Terraced Property Comprising
Of Two Reception Rooms, Good Sized Breakfast
Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Two Double
Bedrooms And A Large Family Bathroom With
Shower, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Small
Foregarden And A Good Sized Rear Garden. Sorry No DSS.

£475 PCM



LAKESIDE CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed Mid-Terraced Property
Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Fitted
Kitchen With Built In Oven And Hob, Lounge,
Two Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Gas Central
Heating And Double Glazing Throughout.

£475PCM



WOODLANDS HOUSE, SHORT HEATH
Modern Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment
With Secure Gated Parking. The Property
Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Good
Sized Lounge/Kitchen, Fitted Kitchen, Two
Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Gas Central
Heating And Double Glazing Throughout.

£475PCM



THE PINNACLE, WILLENHALL
Modern 13th Floor Two Bed Apartment
Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Separate
Bathroom & Shower Room, Two Good Sized
Bedrooms, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Modern
Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Glazing, Electric
Heating, Secured Parking And A Secure Entrance Intercom.

£450PCM



MARKET PLACE, WILLENHALL
Recently Refurbished Two Bed First Floor Flat
Located In Willenhall Town Centre Comprising
Of Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Shower Room
And W.C. The Property Also Benefits From
UPVC D/Glazing And Electric Wall Heaters,
Allocated Parking.

£425 PCM



CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Ground Floor Studio Apartment
Comprising Of Lounge/Bedroom,
Kitchen, Shower Room And W.C. The Property
Also Benefits From UPVC D/Glazing And Electric
Wall Heaters, Allocated Parking.

£325 PCM

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DIXONS

Estate Agents

DoingMore...

New Road, Willenhall



£325,000

- Traditional Detached Family Home
- Porch
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen Diner
- Laundry Room

Buttermere Grove, Willenhall



£220,000

- Detached Property
- Utility Room
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Garage

Milestone Way, Coppice Farm



£205,000

- Detached Property
- Large Hallway
- Living Room with Bay Window
- Utility
- Five Bedrooms

Langmead Close, Walsall



£145,000

- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

Willenhall, Pinewood Close



£140,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Enclosed Porch
- Guest Wc
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen

Gurnard Close, Willenhall



£130,000

- Semi Detached
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom

Upper Sneyd Road, Essington



£120,000

- Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Loft Space

Lucknow Road, Willenhall



£97,500

- Semi-Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- Driveway

Grenville Close, Walsall



£85,000

- Semi-Detached
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage

Wood Lane Close, Willenhall



£260,000

- Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

Swale Grove, Willenhall



£230,000

- Detached Home
- Hallway
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room

Ludlow Close, Willenhall



£175,000

- Two Bedrooms
- Front Garden
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Utility Room

Castle Drive, Willenhall



£170,000

- Detached Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Lawned Front Garden
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen

Glamis Road, Willenhall



£150,000

- Link-Detached Property
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms

Willenhall, Delamere Road



£130,000

- Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory/Extension
- Extensive Rear Garden

Dovedale Avenue, Willenhall



£125,000

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Kitchen
- Three Piece Bathroom Suite
- Garage

Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury



£130,000

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom

Gorey Close, Willenhall



£120,000

- Semi Detached Property
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom

Foster Street, Wednesbury



£110,000

- End Terraced Property
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Garage

Ravenscroft Road, Willenhall



£100,000

- End Terrace Property
- Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathrooms
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing and Central Heating (both where speci-

Shepherd Drive, Willenhall



£80,000

- Terraced Property
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Pugh Crescent, Walsall



£85,000

- Semi Detached Home
- Hallway
- Conservatory
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- First Floor WC

Victoria Street, Willenhall



£80,000

- Terraced Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden



**COPPIE FARM
KESTREL GROVE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Large rear garden
- Allocated parking bays

£130,000 OFFERS, IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE



**WILLENHALL
UPLANDS ROAD**

- Traditional style detached bungalow
- In need of internal modernisation
- Excellent potential for improvement
- Two reception rooms
- Upvc double glazed windows

£114,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**SUMMER HAYES
CASTLE DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Generous dining room
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and shower room
- Upvc double glazed windows

£169,500 NO CHAIN



**NEW INVENTION
WRIGHTON CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi-detached residence
- Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- Three bedrooms
- 24ft extended lounge and separate dining room
- Upvc double glazed windows

£137,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**ESSINGTON
ROWAN DRIVE**

- Superb extended modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- Substantial 25x18ft garage outbuilding
- Upvc double glazed conservatory
- Large rear garden
- Allocated parking

£299,950



**NEW INVENTION
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Well appointed modern style town house
- Large rear garden
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- En-suite shower room
- Off road parking to the front

£136,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**COPPIE FARM
BOWNESS GROVE**

- Spacious modern style detached bungalow
- Two reception rooms
- Three generous bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent refitted kitchen including oven and hob
- Upvc double glazed windows

£188,500



**COPPIE FARM
KINGFISHER GROVE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached residence
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Upvc double glazed windows

£184,500 OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE



**DARLASTON
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET**

- Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £56,000, NO CHAIN



**COPPIE FARM
TORRIDON ROAD**

- Pleasant modern style two bed semi bungalow
- Beautiful cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Allocated parking to the fore

£119,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE**

- Pleasantly appointed and town house property
- Close to the Woodlands nature area
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Fitted double glazing
- Allocated parking

£120,000 OFFERS



**NEW INVENTION
BEACON ROAD**

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Refitted dining kitchen inc oven and hob
- Fitted double glazing
- Popular location
- Viewing recommended

NOW £105,000 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
WEDNESFIELD ROAD**

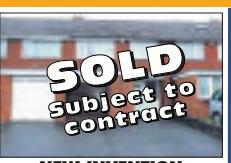
- Pleasantly appointed Victorian style end terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

NOW £79,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN

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**NEW INVENTION
BAYTON ROAD**

- Deserted town house style property
- Well appointed much improved accommodation
- Three generous bedrooms
- Gas central heating

£120,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
FAWLEY CLOSE**

- Pleasant improved modern style semi
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows

£106,500



**ESSINGTON
BUTTERMERE DRIVE**

- A superb extended modern style semi detached residence
- Four bedrooms, en-suite shower room
- Large rear garden
- Upvc double glazed windows

WAS £269,950 NOW £259,500 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD**

- Spacious modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating

NOW £185,000



**COPPIE FARM
LOCHALSH GROVE**

- Modern style detached family residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms

£194,500



**NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE**

- Dormer style link detached bungalow
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Upvc double glazed conservatory
- Upstairs bathroom with shower

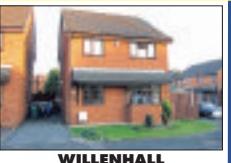
NOW £164,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Excellent modern style semi in popular Hadley Heath development
- Planning permission granted for a two storey side extension
- Cul-de-sac position

NOW £100,000



**WILLENHALL
LAKESIDE CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- 18ft fitted dining kitchen inc
- Large rear garden

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £149,500



**ESSINGTON
SHERRINGTON DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazing

£179,950 OPEN TO OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
SHERLOCK CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style town house
- Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows

£114,995 OFFERS



**SHORT HEATH
COLTHAM ROAD**

- Charming Victorian style terrace
- Thought ideal for first time purchasers
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £99,950



**NEW INVENTION
LICHFIELD ROAD**

- Deceptively spacious individually built detached residence
- Three double bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Separate shower room

NOW £235,000



**WILLENHALL
SHEEPWELL GREEN**

- Conveniently located and term house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows

£89,950 NO CHAIN

Willenhall
01902 631151

**Walsall/Bloxwich
area**
01922 689016

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
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**BENTLEY, WALSALL
CUNNINGHAM ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
 - Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
 - Gas central heating system
 - UPVC double glazed windows
 - Spacious 19ft through lounge
- £110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**


**WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD**

- Conveniently located two bedroom detached bungalow
 - In need of some internal modernisation
 - Gas central heating
 - UPVC double glazed windows
- £100,000 NO CHAIN**


**COPPIE FARM
MILES MEADOW CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached
 - Three bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes
 - UPVC double glazing, gas
- £150,000 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL**


**ESSINGTON
SNEYD LANE**

- Traditional style extended detached bungalow
 - Much requested location
 - Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
 - Two bedrooms
- £257,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**


**NEW INVENTION
TAVERNS CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
 - One bedroom
 - En-suite bathroom with shower
 - Lounge & separate dining/sun room
- £87,950 OFFERS**


**WILLENHALL
KNIGHTS CLOSE**

- Immaculate modern style four bedroom detached house
 - Master bedroom with dressing area & en-suite shower
 - Off road parking
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazed windows
- £225,500 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL**


**SUMMER HAYES
PERRY HALL DRIVE**

- Deceptively spacious semi detached property
 - 3/4 bedrooms (occasional 4th bed off bathroom)
 - Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
 - Refitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000**


**WILLENHALL
SANDBIES ROAD**

- Character Victorian style detached residence
 - Generous plot with parking & two garages
 - Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower
 - Dining room and 20ft extended lounge
- WAS £289,950 NOW £279,950**


**SUMMER HAYES
BLENHEIM ROAD**

- Pleasant link detached bungalow
 - UPVC external double glazing, gas central heating
 - Large enclosed rear garden with paved patio
 - Block paved off road parking
- £139,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**


**WILLENHALL
HAWKSWELL DRIVE**

- Pleasant modern style semi detached property
 - Ideal first time buy
 - Two bedrooms
 - Gas central heating
- £99,950 OFFERS**


**WILLENHALL
CAISTER DRIVE**

- Modern style detached property
 - Two bedrooms
 - In need of some internal modernisation
 - Internal viewing recommended
- £95,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**


**WILLENHALL
ALTON AVENUE**

- Superb double fronted traditional style semi detached property
 - Three bedrooms
 - Two reception rooms
 - Fitted kitchen and breakfast room including oven & hob
- OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000 NO CHAIN**


**WILLENHALL, OFF STROUD AVE
LYNDYEY CLOSE**

- Pleasant extended semi detached property
 - Cal-de-cos position
 - Four bedrooms
 - Gas central heating system
- OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000**


**WILLENHALL
LUCKNOW ROAD**

- Extended traditional semi detached property
 - Refrined kitchen including oven and hob
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 - Four bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes
 - Two reception rooms
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AUCTION

6th September 2012
11am At Holte Suite,
Aston Villa Football Ground

116 Lots to include properties on behalf of:

Lot 1	52 Millmead Road, Bartley Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 38	Portobello Health Centre, 33 Dilloways Lane Willenhall	Commercial Investment	Lot 78	7 Elmton Road, Marston Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 2	1 Roundsway Croft, Rubery, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 39	Former Lea Manor Hotel, Holyhead Road Abington, Wolverhampton	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 79	Brighton Villas, 102-104 Victoria Road, Aston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 3	Land at R/O of Brook Lane, Billesley	Land	Lot 40	728 Pershore Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 80	17 Grove Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 4	Land off Derwent Grove, Stinchley, Birmingham	Land	Lot 41	6 Keystone Mews, Keystone Road, Rugeley	Residential Investment	Lot 81	Apartment 7, Radbrook Hall Court, Shrewsbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 5	Land at Kelsall Croft, Ladywood, Birmingham	Land	Lot 42	6 Wiley Avenue, Darlaston	Residential Vacant	Lot 82	6 Walstead Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 6	Site at 428 Tyburn Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Land	Lot 43	Unit 41 Stafford Street, Wednesbury	Commercial Vacant	Lot 83	21 Hall Court, Cheapside, Willenhall	Residential Investment
Lot 7	Site off Winchester Grove, off Wattville Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land	Lot 43a	20 Avenue Road, Darlaston	Residential Vacant	Lot 84	Aglovalle, Dover Street, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 8	15 Selwyn Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 44	10 Bromford Court, Bromford Lane, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 85	6 Tyning's Lane, Aldridge	Residential Vacant
Lot 9	208 Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 45	883 Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 86	8 New Street, Tipton	Residential Vacant
Lot 10	17-43 Unicorn Hill, Redditch, West Midlands	Commercial Investment	Lot 46	14 Martin Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 87	13 Birch Coppice Gardens, Willenhall	Residential Investment
Lot 11	4 Veronica Avenue, Parkfield, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 47	57 Atlantic Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 88	28-30 Lower High Street, Wednesbury	Commercial Investment
Lot 12	20 Marsham Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 48	105 Johnson Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 89	2 Severn Cottages, Quatford, Bridgnorth	Residential Vacant
Lot 13	70 Audley Road, Stechford, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 49	19 Holte Road, Aston, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 90	65 Mount Pleasant, Bilston	Residential Investment
Lot 14	Flat 6, 64 Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 50	294 Newton Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 91	Ivy Cottage, 368 Cannock Road, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 15	29 St Columbas Road, Radford, Coventry	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 51	741 Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 92	1 The Fillybrooks, Stone	Commercial Vacant
Lot 16	Harvington House, 10 Parsons Hill, Dudley	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 52	743 Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 93	Strategic Land MID 1a, Rowley Regis	Land
Lot 17	53 The Broadway, Witton, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 53	76 Lichfield Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 94	255 Wolverhampton Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 18	Ladywood Health Centre, 395 Ladywood Middleway, Ladywood, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 54	32 St Michael's Crescent, Oldbury, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 95	30 Russell Street, Dudley	Residential Investment
Lot 19	Soh House, 362-364 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 55	2048 Bristol Road South, Rubery, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 96	Site Adj. 30 Russell Street, Dudley	Residential Investment
Lot 20	Malthouse Cottage, Old Road, Meriden	Residential Vacant	Lot 56	46 Wellington Road, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 97	7 Waterville Avenue, off Waterville Road, Handsworth Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 21	Apartment 1 Arlington House, 15 St Augustines Road Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 57	Flat 16 Moorland Court, Melville Road, Edgbaston	Residential Investment	Lot 98	Flat 3 / Block 6 Meadow Close, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22	Apartment 2 Arlington House, 15 St Augustines Road Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 58	156 Griffiths Drive, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 99	117 Gilmot Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	Apartment 3 Arlington House, 15 St Augustines Road Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 59	12 Beach Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 100	261-263 Slade Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 24	Apartment 8 Arlington House, 15 St Augustines Road Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 60	Vulcan Works, Hayes Lane, Stourbridge	Commercial Investment	Lot 101	24 Shetland Walk, Smethwick	Residential Investment
Lot 25	Apartment 11 Arlington House, 15 St Augustines Road Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 61	289a & 289b Walsall Road, West Bromwich	Residential Investment	Lot 102	125 Victoria Road, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 26	91 Fraser Street, Bilston	Residential Investment	Lot 62	60 Dudley Road, Tipton	Residential Vacant	Lot 103	2 Waite Road, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 27	14 Churchill Road, Walton, Stone	Residential Vacant	Lot 63	13 Porter Street South, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 104	Land 24c Portway Hill, Tividale	Land
Lot 28	13 Birmingham New Road, Tipton	Residential Vacant	Lot 64	23 Worcester Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Investment	Lot 105	46 St Christopher's Close, West Bromwich	Residential Vacant
Lot 29	3 Byron Street, West Bromwich	Residential Vacant	Lot 65	36 Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 106	Joron House, 16 Griffin Street, Netherton, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	138 Woodlands Park Road, Bournville, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 66	37 Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 107	42 Davis Avenue, Tipton	Residential Vacant
Lot 30a	119 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 67	39 Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 108	17 Patricia Avenue, Goldthorne Park, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 31	The Dun Cow, Pathlow, Stratford-upon-Avon... SOLD PRIOR	Commercial Vacant	Lot 68	40 Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 109	101 Ivy House Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 32	Haywood House, 40 New Road, Stourbridge	Commercial Investment	Lot 69	36 Higgate Drive, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 110	56 St Chads Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 33	Systems House, 112a Acoster Road, Studley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 70	Station Master's Cottage, 24 Station Road, Halesowen	Residential Investment	Lot 111	28 Kathleen Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 34	West Brom Fish Bar, 198 High Street, West Bromwich	Commercial Investment	Lot 71	15-17 Coventry Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant	Lot 112	2 Windus Road, Parkfield, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 35	1 Ploughmans Walk, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 72	28 Neachells Lane, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 113	2 Vincent Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 36	4 Park Avenue, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 73	309 Stafford Road, Cannock	Residential Vacant	Lot 114	4 Southern Road, Ward End, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 37	41 Maxwell Road, All Saints, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 74	Unit 12 Phoenix Business Park, Aston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant			
			Lot 75	30 Bradley Lane, Bilston	Residential Vacant			
			Lot 76	22 Henwood Road, Compton, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant			
			Lot 77	49 Camplin Crescent, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant			

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MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Zafira Tourer tows the line for quality

First THINGS FIRST, I DON'T NEED A seven seater car and I don't need to be able to tow a decent weight . . . but if I did the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer would be up there among contenders.

This third-generation of the model hit our roads earlier this year and has continued its earlier success and built on it. Unlike some MPVs, it is full-size with plenty of space for seven, and also unlike other MPVs, it can actually tow a decent weight.

In fact it was named this year's Best MPV at Practical Caravan magazine's Towcar Awards 2012.

The Practical Caravan awards, backed by What Car? magazine and The Camping and Caravanning Club, are based on a vigorous and thorough towcar assessment. Each car is tested by a panel of eight judges for its towing

By Sharon Walters

ability, buying and owning costs, drive quality when not towing and practicality.

"The Zafira Tourer really comes into its own when towing," said awards judge Nigel Donnelly, Haymarket Outdoor Leisure Group's editor-in-chief - digital. "At the legal limit and beyond the Zafira Tourer is a relaxing car to tow with. With plenty of power and torque, the 2.0-litre engine pulled car and caravan from 30-60mph in 14.1 seconds. Braking showed the shortest stopping distance in this class. The Zafira Tourer offers strong performance, good stability and space for seven."

"We're delighted Zafira Tourer has won the Best MPV title at the Towcar Awards 2012," said Peter Hope, Vauxhall's marketing director.

"The Towcar of the Year awards are an industry standard and by far the most prestigious event in the caravanning calendar."

And while I didn't test its towing capabilities the 2.0 litre version I drove certainly felt it had the capability to hitch up the 'van' for a summer holiday and leave you feeling pretty safe behind the wheel with the kids piled in the back.

Flexibility

But I did test some of Vauxhall's flexibility claims by trying out a number of the options Flex7 seating system. There are several including 'Lounge Seating' on key models. When you want seven up the two seats at the very back come up out of the floor and the middle bench seat is now a set of three separate seats which are also each capable of folding and splitting into any number of combinations. In addition the two outside seats slide backwards and inwards against the



The Tourer was named best MPV at Practical Caravan's Towcar Awards

middle seat which folds to form two arm rests and gives plenty of space. Only downside to seven up is the reduced boot space. But if you want to turn it into a load lugger put all the seats down to reveal 1,860 litres of space – more than enough for a trip to collect flat-packs from Ikea or clear the shed out and head for the tip.

Staying on the inside materials are of a much better quality than the old model and the design means everyone gets a good view of outside from the light and airy cabin. This is made even better if you opt for a panoramic sunroof and the high-top windscreens.

There's a choice of two petrol engines and three diesel. My car was the ecoflex with

start/stop technology and I really could appreciate the difference in fuel consumption when chugging around town doing odd jobs and stopping off for shopping. Sitting at traffic lights just when they change at one of my regular routes can take some minutes and when the engine switches off it can make all the difference on your monthly fuel bill.

Drivewise it was comfortable and coped well with the potholes on the B roads on my way into work and it smoothly made its way along the M54. Standard features across the four trim level range include: ESF; six airbags, air conditioning, CD/MP3 player and cruise control – not bad with prices starting at £21,010.

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On The Road Price (Cash price)	£12,055*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£3,719.25	Total Amount Payable	£13,333.78
Deposit including £500 contribution	£4,219.25	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)	£4,456.13	Representative APR	6.9%

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On The Road Price (Cash price)	£17,455*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£4,032.26	Total Amount Payable	£19,399.39
Deposit including £1,500 contribution	£5,532.26	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
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On The Road Price (Cash price)	£28,540*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£7,607.00	Total Amount Payable	£28,766.79
Deposit including £1,500 contribution	£9,107.00	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)	£9,453.43	Representative APR	6.9%

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Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £14,200 including metallic paint. Terms & Conditions: New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (excluding Jazz Si) from 2 July to 20 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £17,455 including metallic paint. Terms & Conditions: New retail Civic registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. Model shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC EX Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £26,020 on The Road including metallic paint and saving of £2,520 on retail On The Road price. Terms & Conditions: New retail CR-V registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Complimentary upgrade: CR-V EX models available for the On The Road price of equivalent ES-T model - discount of £2,520 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.



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Vauxhall take fresh approach to Meriva

THE MERIVA was introduced back in 2003 and it has been a very successful small vehicle with over 100,000 being sold in the UK.

However it was getting a bit old and it needed a makeover and thankfully Vauxhall didn't go down the road of let's just tweak the headlamps, or put new door handles on, no they have created a completely new and very stylish looking vehicle.

When you look at the vehicle, the front has the corporate look that says I am a Vauxhall, but the biggest change without doubt is when you look at the side profile, Vauxhall have taken the rather brave step of equipping the Meriva with what they describe as flex-doors. Flex-doors basically are doors that are hinged backwards which then swing open towards the rear of the car at an angle of almost 90 degrees, this makes this vehicle almost a must for people with young children or mobility issues that need to utilise the rear of the car.

The doors cannot be opened by the occupants whilst the Meriva is travelling at more than two mph. The concept itself is nothing new but it does promote Meriva very high on to the list of must have if you are a family and need vehicles that have ease of access for children and child seats.

Journey

The designers have really worked overtime inside the vehicle, there is a completely new approach to the centre console and a variety of storage and comfort solutions are incorporated. I do like vehicles that have lots and lots of nooks and crannies to secrete the bits and pieces that we seem to have to take with us on our journeys.

The rear seats can be folded down to increase the amount of luggage capacity and also the flex-space system allows for the movement of rear seats to create a little bit of head or shoulder room. The boot also has a secret compartment, the floor of the boot can be lifted and you can store items away from prying eyes.

There is a choice of engine configurations for the Meriva with several petrols and diesels as options, the petrols are going to be based primarily on 1.4-litre engines and the diesels will be a variety either of 1.3 or 1.7-litres. The engineers at Vauxhall are still striving to get their CO₂ emissions down and it is going to be some time before they are down to the realms of the CO₂ emissions which qualify for free or very low road tax, but they are working very hard to achieve this.

My Meriva was equipped with a 1.4-litre turbo charged engine with a capacity of 1364cc, and produced 140 bhp, sufficient Vauxhall suggest of a top speed of 122 mph and a 0 - 60 in margin-



The Meriva sits a little higher than normal offering good visibility



Prices for Vauxhall's family saloon start at £13,000, rising to £22,000

By Bob Hickman

ally over 10 seconds. The five-speed gearbox was quite a notchy easy to use configuration, I did find however that the vehicle could be lethargic in fourth and fifth gears and if an overtake was necessary it was essential to get that engine and more importantly the turbo spinning to give you the get up and go that you need.

The vehicles are well equipped, although on my model Vauxhall had taken the trouble to spend £855 on a satellite navigation system and if it was my money I wouldn't bother, I found my own £100 Tom-Tom was far more efficient and try as I would with the sat nav in the Vauxhall I couldn't get it to accept postcodes and a trip to a Shropshire hamlet proved very difficult with the on-board system but a doddle with the Tom-tom.

Standard features on my vehicle included electric front windows which was a surprise, as the rear flexi doors have good old fashioned wind-up windows.

An absolute plethora of air bags are incorporated and Vauxhall have enabled an air bag deactivation switch so you can safely put a child seat on the front passenger seat. I am not too convinced that an electronic parking brake is necessary on a vehicle of this type but you get used to it.

From a driving perspective the vehicle is a little higher than normal so it does give you an extra bit of visibility, but nothing too dramatic. It was a comfortable, predictable vehicle to drive, nothing too exciting but you don't expect that from this type of vehicle. It does everything that you require from a saloon to transport the family about.

Pricing structures for the Meriva vary from £13,000 up to a hefty £22,000, my 1.4-litre turbo was priced at £19,740, the extras fitted took it over £21,000 and the fuel figures quoted for the engine was a not too exciting 42.2 mpg on the combined figure. CO₂ is quoted at 156 and that puts it sadly in to the £155 excise duty, and that is a shame.

As with all new Vauxhalls it is eligible for the company's Lifetime 100,000 miles warranty.



The Meriva features handy flex-door rear access

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Landlords versus the tenants in cup clash

Willenhall Town 1
Sporting Khalsa 1

THIS tenants versus landlords FA Cup match at Noose Lane finished level.

The first serious attempt on goal came on 13 minutes when Kyle Parchment curled one wide for Willenhall.

Khalsa keeper Jamie Hood made a superb double save to deny Danico Johnson. Parchment then saw a shot blocked on the line and Johnson's effort was kept out by Hood.

The Lockmen felt they should have had a penalty on 25 minutes when Johnson was hauled back. But they broke the deadlock on 42 minutes when a corner was miskicked by Johnson to Craig Oldfield who hooked home.

Khalsa hit back eight minutes after the break when an excellent run and cross was just beyond the fingertips of keeper Jamie Evan. Andre Brown produced a superb header to level. Parchment fired wide for The Reds before Reece Beacon tackles denied two scoring opportunities.

The replay was taking place on Tuesday this week.

Club hope to build on Olympics

A HOCKEY club hope to help those inspired by Team GB's performances in the 2012 Olympics.

Both men's and women's teams finished playing for bronze, the women winning and the men beaten by Australia.

Now Bloxwich Hockey Club want to provide a welcome for anyone keen to take up the sport. The club have four men's and four women's teams as well as a growing junior section.

Games are played on Saturdays and training is on Tuesday evenings from September until April with junior coaching on Sundays.

The club throw open their doors at Sneyd School, Vernon Way, Bloxwich, to potential recruits on September 1 at 10am and September 4 at 7pm.

For further details send an email to stephanie@blueyonder.co.uk or call 07795 380589 or go online to the www.bloxwichhockeyclub.co.uk website.



The inventive Florent Cuvelier on the ball for Saddlers

Home joy as Ashley Hemmings nets

Jake Jones gets in a shot for Walsall during their win over Brentford

Walsall stay top despite defeat

BIRMINGHAM League Premier leaders Walsall lost for the first time this season – but second-placed Hinckley missed an opportunity to reduce the lead to 13 points after a dramatic tie with Kidderminster Victoria.

Hinckley skipper Stuart Wedge failed to score a single off the last ball against Kidderminster.

With one ball remaining, Hinckley stood on 219-6 – level with the visitors' 219-9.

But the dot ball left Walsall 21 points ahead, despite their seven-wicket defeat at Berkswell.

Neil Pinney (98) and Matt Pardoe (67) contributed most to Kidderminster's total, while Greg Wright (67) starred for Hinckley.

Walsall raced to 128-4 in 24 overs, thanks to Tim Maxwell's 70, but then stumbled to 189 all out.

Wolverhampton's seven-wicket victory over Barnet Green left them 41 points behind the leaders.

Johannes Bothma's 5-44 restricted Barnet Green to 167-9. Vishal Tripathi (69 not out) and Tom Fell (47 not out) steered Wolves home.

West Bromwich Dartmouth (250-7) achieved a winning draw against Leamington Spa. Rawstow Tappin hit an undefeated 104 for Dartmouth while Leamington made 215-8.

Youngsters keen to learn tennis skills

YOUNG people from Walsall, Cannock and Wolverhampton have been flocking to weekly tennis coaching sessions at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre.

More than 45 youngsters have taken part in the Monday stints at the Saredon Road centre.

Free weekly tennis sessions have been organised for children in school years three, four, five and six on Mondays from 5.30-6.30pm.

The sessions aim to develop skills on half and three-quarter-sized courts led by LTA qualified coaches to allow youngsters to progress to full-court tennis.

From 6.30-8pm those aged 12 and above can experience tennis with match scenarios.

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Walsall's Ashley Hemmings grabs the only goal of the game at the Banks's Stadium



Jake Reeves sees the dreaded red card

No-one, least of all Smith, will get carried away with a single-goal win against a Bees side clearly hampered by the red card that both managers accepted was inevitable.

Intent

One of all Smith, will get carried away with a single-goal win against a Bees side clearly hampered by the red card that both managers accepted was inevitable.

Yet the attacking, expansive intent that accompanied the youthful enthusiasm within the Saddlers ranks was a sight to offer hope for the difficult days that doubtless lie ahead.

If the Saddlers are not to challenge near the top of League One – given the budget at Smith's disposal, such ambitions seem far-fetched – then a unique selling point is needed to lure back the lapsed supporters.

A commitment to inventive, free-flowing football is as good as any, and the evidence of Saturday's win suggested that is precisely what Smith aims to encourage.

After weathering a brief but dangerous Brentford assault and taking the lead through Hemmings against the run of play, the Saddlers took charge for much of the opening half with a display of imaginative

ball-retention and attacking freedom from their youngsters.

When they had to withstand a spirited effort by the visitors after the break, the experience of Andy Butler, Dean Holden and Adam Chambers came to the fore as they repelled the advance and even conjured up a few more moments of attacking threat.

David Grof did well to save Harry Forrester's long-range shot, Kevin O'Connor sent a free header over the crossbar from a Sam Saunders free-kick and Richard Taundry had to be alert at the far post to block a Reeves effort as the Bees flew out of the blocks.

But it was the Saddlers who broke the deadlock on eight minutes with Florent Cuvelier, the most eye-catching ball-player on either side, at the heart of the move.

His super pass found Will Grigg just

inside the area and, when he was tackled well by O'Connor, the ball broke for Hemmings, who produced an emphatic left-footed finish from a tight angle across keeper Simon Moore and into the far, bottom corner.

The goal settled Walsall and their chances increased further on 25 minutes when Reeves was dismissed for a studs-up challenge on Adam Chambers.

Referee Andy Woolmer consulted his linesman before brandishing a red card.

Grof did well to dive bravely at Myles Weston's feet and smother his shot to prevent Walsall's lead.

But in the dying moments of the half it was Moore who twice made saves, although his blocks from Cuvelier and Grigg were less than convincing.

Grof made a fine save early in the second

half to get his finger-tips to a long-range Forrester shot and turn it over the crossbar.

Brentford piled on the pressure despite their numerical disadvantage with substitute Toumani Diagouraga somehow blasting over from just six yards out after a powerful run and cross from Clayton Donaldson.

Another Brentford substitute, Adam Forshaw, was denied smartly at the near post by Grof in the closing stages as Walsall held firm.

Walsall (4-2-3-1): Grof; Purkiss, Holden, Butler, Taundry; Featherstone (Jones, 72), Chambers; Paterson, Cuvelier, Hemmings (Bowerman, 68); Grigg (Brady, 89). **Subs not used:** Bannister, Doherty, Gurney, McLean.

Brentford (4-3-3): Moore; O'Connor, Craig, Dean, Weston, Forrester (Forshaw, 64), Douglas, Saunders (Diagouraga, HT); Reeves; Donaldson, Logan (Fredericks, 72). **Subs not used:** Dallas, Redwood, Legge, Gouinet (gk).

Referee: Andy Woolmer (Northamptonshire)
Attendance: 2,248 (374 from Brentford)

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Darlow are stung as Bs claim the points

DARLASTON 1 Bustleholme 3
DARLASTON hit six goals the previous week but were turned over in this West Midlands Premier match.

A well-marshalled visiting rearguard won the day at the City Ground.

There were good performances from Phil Ellerby and Chris Norton in the heart of the Bustleholme defence.

The Bs took a 14th-minute lead when Danny Hall brought a good save from the home keeper, but Max Whitehouse was on hand to head home the rebound.

Bustleholme continued to press and could have doubled their lead when a superb Adam Griffiths free-kick found Hall at the back post but he failed to connect properly.

As the second half got under way Bustleholme began on the front foot and in the 49th minute a lovely touch from Hall played in Darrell Francis who finished well with a low drive.

Opener

With 10 minutes left Darlaston halved the deficit when Emmanuel Gueyes finished from close range past keeper Luke Steele.

But with two minutes remaining the result was put beyond doubt when Will Hutt's cross found man of the match Hall's head and he finished clinically.

The Bs, who finished 20th last season, lost 3-0 away to AFC Wulfrunians in their league opener last week.

But they will be heartened to have picked up a win in their second match.

Darlaston, who were two places lower last season, will be disappointed not to build on last week's 6-3 home win over bottom club Bromyard Town.

Bustleholme face a third away trip on Saturday when they visit Dudley Sports.

It's medals for all at festival

A WALSALL club are staging a football festival this weekend.

Pelsall Villa Colts are putting on the event on Saturday and Sunday at Pelsall Villa Education Development Centre, Pelsall Lane, Rushall.

Seven-a-side matches will run for under-sevens, eights, nines and 10s, while it's six-a-side at under-11, 12, 13 and 14 level.

Food will be available and all mini-soccer entrants will receive medals. For more details, call 07712 405005.

Instant impact

New-boy grabs winner for happy Walsall

Page 43



Still on top

Cricket leaders lose but retain control

Page 43

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Four-goal salvo ends game as contest

RUSHALL OLYMPIC rounded off their 10-game pre-season campaign with an emphatic success against Evo-Stik League First Division South neighbours Sutton Coldfield Town at Dales Lane.

Pics ended the match as a contest within the 24th minute with all four goals being scored during a nightmare period for the visitors.

With just 10 minutes on the watch, the hosts were in control when Lei Brown ghosted in past his marker and fired clinically inside the near post.

Straight from the restart and the Royals were in real trouble when namesake Leo

Rushall Olympic 4 Sutton Coldfield Town 0

Brown took advantage of a weak defensive back-header to sidestep keeper Paul Hathaway and coolly slot home the second goal.

As the game passed the 16-minute mark Olympic crafted themselves an essentially unassimilable advantage when Kyle Haynes intercepted a loose pass out of the visitors' defence and homed in on goal.

As the former Hednesford wing-back cut inside the box he pushed the ball beyond the keeper and, despite having Dave Walker in close attendance, failed to pounce for the goal, took control himself and steered in the

finish. Eight minutes later Rushall put themselves out of sight when Haynes whipped in a telling centre from the left flank and Lei Brown got in front of his marker to power a header inside the near post from 10 yards for his second goal.

The second period was never going to live up to the goal-laden feats of the first, with the warmth of the afternoon also appearing to sap the energy of the players.

A number of substitutions from both sides arguably robbed the game of some fluidity and it was only during the final quarter of an

hour of the contest that proceedings livened up. In the 78th minute Rushall's Walker picked up possession through the right channel and dinked a curling 25-yard drive that weaved its way just shy of the far post.

Sutton responded seven minutes later when Luke Chapman tried his luck from distance but the ball ended up wide of the top left corner with keeper Chris Gemmell having things well covered.

With two minutes remaining some pressure from the hosts saw Jonny Haynes centre invitingly from the left by-line and Lei Brown powered a rising header just over the crossbar with the keeper at full stretch.

Thompson fires home last-gasp winner

Walsall Wood 1 Coventry Copsewood 0

WALSALL WOOD made it three wins on the trot when Johaine Thompson notched the only goal of the game in the last minute.

Encounters between the two Midland Combination Premier rivals have been tight and this one could have gone either way.

The home side had to overcome the loss of Danny Owen, sent off seconds before half-time, to record the win.

Virtually from the kick-off Wood signalled their intent. Corey Curritters collected a Jamie Hawkins pass wide left, his neat touch inside was crossed into the box and Ahmet Bilgimer stretched to put a header wide.

On four minutes the visitors won a corner, James Ritson heading just over.

On 12 minutes Hawkins floated in a free-kick, the ball was half-cleared to Owen and his low drive was well taken by keeper Richard O'Bimpeh.

It was end-to-end and on 29 minutes Lewis Taylor Boyce found Curritters wide left, cut inside and set up Hawkins to hit a first-time drive agonisingly wide.

The visitors should have taken the lead on 39 minutes when Shane Brasington stabbed a shot wide. Wood lost Owen to a second yellow card almost on half-time.

In the second half Brasington went close when his cross-shot rolled wide of Wood's post. Neither side were happy to settle for a point and on 78 minutes Curritters' low cross found Thompson who laid the ball into the path of Michael Murray to fire over.

With the clock showing 90 minutes Thompson was forced wide but kept his composure to fire home an unstoppable shot.

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SADDLERS PLAN TO SURPRISE RIVALS

WALSALL new-boy Ashley Hemmings is set for his League debut – and insists that the Saddlers are in the mood to shock their bigger-spending rivals.

Manager Dean Smith's side kick-off their League One campaign at relegated Doncaster on Saturday with Hemmings looking to build on his debut goal against Brentford in the Capital One Cup. And the former Wolves trainee is relishing the chance to help his new club defy pundits who are predicting a difficult season.

"I can't wait for the League season to start," said the 21-year-old. "With the team and the manager that we've got, we are confident we can do really well."

"During the season I think we're going to surprise a few people and a few teams.

"One of our targets is to do better than the club did last year."

"I just want to get out there, do my best and see where it takes us and I'm looking forward to learning from the older players."

Advice

"I'm learning a lot. Every day I come in I learn something new from how they speak to me and give me advice. I keep all that in my head."

"Here I'm training with older players and learning every time."

Hemmings also revealed how advice from Molineux midfielder David Davis, who spent time on loan with the Saddlers in 2010, convinced him to sign a deal at the Banks's Stadium.

"David Davis came here and he said great things about the club," said Hemmings, who operated on the left of a front three against the Bees. "That really attracted me to the club."

Walsall FC

Meanwhile, Smith was planning more talks with Jordan Stewart and James Chambers this week as he plots further team strengthening.

Smith was setting up meetings with the experienced duo as he considers possible contract offers ahead of the new season.

Despite the 1-0 win over Brentford, the manager is still keen to strengthen his squad with left-back Stewart and versatile defender Chambers – twin brother of Saddlers midfielder Adam – still in his thoughts.

"I'm still talking to both of them and we'll see where we go," said Smith.

"I've got room in the budget to strengthen and we'll be looking to do that."

"I thought Richard Taundry was fantastic on Saturday at left-back. He doesn't seem uncomfortable playing there and I know he's done it many times before. But maybe we will look for one more defender and a forward, although I thought Will Grigg was excellent as a lone forward and deserved a goal."

Catch report – page 43



Ashley Hemmings on the ball for Walsall in their Capital One Cup victory over Brentford at the Banks's Stadium

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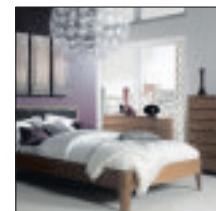
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CELEBRATING GENERATIONS OF FURNITURE RETAILING

For 27 years Cousins Furniture have continued to be one of the leading family owned furniture retailers in the UK, employing more than 140 staff with exciting plans for the future progress of the company.

Cousins was founded by three cousins - Robert, Edward and William - and the first Cousins' furniture store opened its doors in Tyseley, Birmingham, on 17th August 1985.

ORIGINS BACK TO 1921

The original family business had been established in 1921 and had originally specialised in selling items and materials reclaimed from household demolitions. It had sold such things as reclaimed timber, 19th Century fire surrounds and roll-top baths to builders, and also to private customers doing their own home improvements.

The business then developed into a builders' merchants, selling building materials, aggregates and, later, new fireplaces and baths, alongside the reclaimed items. Even at this early stage, they had built a private zoo on-site, which proved a huge attraction for all ages and an unbelievable "ahead-of-time" marketing tool for the firm. As time moved on, the business began to sell household electrical items and also furniture, which was to become the future of the business.

COUSINS IN TYSELEY

The first Cousins furniture store opened in Tyseley, Birmingham in the Midlands in August 1985, where they traded from a 50,000ft² showroom with adjoining offices and warehouse. This new venture was a resounding success and the warehouse was soon relocated, and the showrooms subsequently expanded by 30%.



Cousins Furniture - Tyseley Store

COUSINS OPENS DUDLEY STORE

By 1995, a second retail site was acquired when they purchased the freehold of the landmark Tesco building in Dudley, in the West Midlands. This was transformed into a 90,000ft² furniture showroom, with its own customer restaurant. The store was opened on 17th August 1996, by Jack and Vera Duckworth from Coronation Street, bringing the town centre to a standstill.

A second, separate 12,000ft² unit was developed on the same site, opening in 1998. This sells budget ranges and end of line furniture.



Cousins Furniture - Dudley Store

A NEW HEAD OFFICE

Due to the resulting high sales volumes, the head office, warehouse and distribution functions were centralised to a 4 acre site in Oldbury on the side of the M5, which the company had purchased from B.P. Oils. This opened in September 1997 and the new 65,000ft² warehousing facility utilised a palletised, computer-generated order picking system and pioneered the use of articulated fork-lift trucks in the furniture industry.

The relocation of the main offices from Tyseley to Oldbury allowed fresh expansion and the subsequent refurbishment of the original Tyseley showrooms in 1999 - to its existing size of 90,000ft², complete with a new customer restaurant.

By November 2004, Cousins had set its sights on building a flagship store in Manchester and establishing itself in the North-West of England, having gained an unquestionable reputation for quality and service in the West Midlands.

COUSINS EXPAND IN MANCHESTER

They purchased a 4 acre site on the A57, Regent Road at the end of the M602 in Salford and soon built an inspirational 90,000ft² new concept flagship store which stands just 1.5 miles from the centre of Manchester. The store offers the largest selection of furniture in the whole of the North-West, and offers impressive room set displays that set new standards in the furniture industry.

The store has been acclaimed as England's finest furniture store, attracting customers from across the North-West and regularly from Liverpool, Preston, Yorkshire and the Lake District.

This flagship store also incorporates large lighting, picture and furniture accessories departments, plus a customer restaurant where you can contemplate your thoughts.

NEW DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Due to the store's resounding success, the Company has had to re-think its initial plans to trunk home deliveries up the M6 from their Oldbury distribution centre. By Christmas 2005, they had opened a new 33,000ft² warehouse close to Manchester Airport on the M56 which now forms the hub of their North-West home delivery network.

The success of the Manchester store's venture into home accessories saw the appointment of a Homewares Buyer, Samantha Gough in Summer 2008 with the subsequent opening of new Homewares Departments in the Tyseley Store, in the Midlands, in December 2008.

This exciting new venture includes departments for tableware, cookware, furnishing accessories, a picture and mirror gallery and bed linens. It has involved a significant investment, with a cutting edge store fit-out by Jameson Smith Associates and showcases leading brands such as Denby, Joseph Joseph, Newgate clocks and bed linen ranges from Kylie Minogue and Kirstie Allsopp.

2010 witnessed the opening of Cousins' first Stressless Comfort Studio in Manchester, showcasing the largest selection of these ergonomically designed chairs and sofas in the North West. Due to its resounding success, flagship studios were opened in the other two stores in April 2011. All now offer an unrivalled selection and shopping experience for this world leading brand.

April 2011 saw a significant change in the running of the business, with the appointment of John Shotton (Robert's eldest son) to Managing Director and Matthew Shotton (Robert's youngest son) to Retail Director. Robert now assumed the position of Chairman, further strengthening the family influence on the direction of the business.

Richard Foster became Operations Director having started with the company as an 18 year old junior bedding sales consultant when the Dudley store opened in 1996. Richard now oversees the systems, warehousing, distribution and customer services functions.

THE FUTURE IS EVOLVING

Retail continues to evolve and is no longer just a bricks-and-mortar operation; increasing emphasis is now being placed online with the internet and various social media channels. 2012 has seen a significant commitment and investment by Cousins toward enhancing their online presence and service. In March, Cousins entered into an agreement with BT Fresca, a world leading web platform provider and development company to build a brand new website, due to launch at the end of the year.

The new Cousins website will integrate fully with existing in-store systems to provide a seamless multi-channel shopping experience with unprecedented levels of service, usability and functionality. This will then be followed by the opening of a mobile site in Autumn 2013.



Left to right, John Shotton, Thomas Shotton, Robert Shotton, Richard Foster, Edward Shotton and Matt Shotton.

Alongside these corporate changes came the groundbreaking appointment of the first non-family member to the board of directors.

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